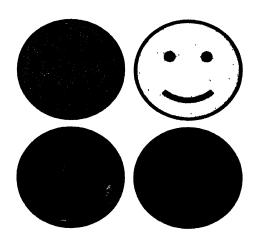
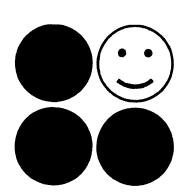


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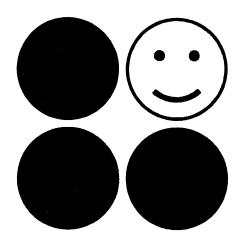


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REACHING FOR GREATNESS

Gary Kirsten is the most consistent and dependable batsman in the world today

STANDING SMALL

An analysis of why Indian hockey is still in the doldrums









INTERVIEW WITH CRAIG **McDERMOTT**

INTERVIEW WITH BOB WOOLMER

THE MADMAN & THE FOOL!

GOING GAGA OVER PAUL **ADAMS**

INTERVIEW WITH ALLAN **BORDER**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SAHOO MEWALAL

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS OF MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

1

COOL!

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN is playing cricket on his terms

BY ROBIN CHATTERJEE

N order to attempt a correct assessment on where the Azharuddin story started to take a dip, one would have to go back to the winter of 1990. In many ways, history was about to take shape. The following years would aptly illustrate how fame can be a double- edged sword. Maybe the episodes that took place on that warm, winter afternoon in Bombay could have been arrested. But then again, history chalks out its own ares

It all started with three simple words. A simple question really, but one that would prove to be significant in the life of Mohammad Azharuddin.

"Mian, captain banoge?" ("My friend, would you like to be captain?") asked the then chairman of selectors, Raj Singh Dungarpur, to a simple, awestruck but devastating cricketer from Hyderabad. Sure enough, instead of replying with a confident 'yes' all Azhar could manage was a counter question.

"But sir," he queried, "What about Srikkanth?"

Raj Singh smiled indulgently at Azhar as though expecting such naivete and gently repeated his question. A confused Azhar then gave his assent through the characteristic shrug of his shoulders. Raj Singh nodded his approval and gently switched on the roller coaster. Life for the simple, uncomplicated lad from Hyderabad was never going to be the same again.

There is a basic rule in cricket: 'never run off a misfield'. In cricketing parlance it would mean that one should always try not to get out by default. Six years ago, the Indian selectors, fed up with the attitude of some senior cricketers, committed the cardinal sin: they thrust the mantle of captaincy on a soft-spoken, uncontroversial cricketer not on merit, but more as a compromise.

Six years later, their decision reached its logical cricketing conclusion: a run out! Inspite of his impressive track record as India's most successful cricket captain ever, Mohammad Azharuddin had run out...of runs and friends.

That wasn't enough. The same people who had pampered and created him claimed that he had run out of ideas and in the end, even words to defend himself. In a classical irony, Azharuddin, so noted for his abhorrence for controversy which helped make him captain, now could not stay away from it.

Sure, even if Azhar looks back at his tenure as captain, his achievements would in all probability make him feel proud of himself. But if he had any sense, he would be wise not to go in for a repeat performance. The responsibility that he had shouldered for those six years, almost destroyed him as a cricketer and an individual.

Towards the end of Azhar's reign as captain, there was utter confusion on all quarters. He thought that he had been treated badly and the public believed (firmly) that Azhar had let them down. There were so many instances when one could point a finger at Azhar's foolishness (was it brought on by innocence?). And he, by holding back his words (in what he thought was a wise move) only went on to become the villian of each episode. Finally, the Indian captaincy was lost.

In retrospect, one hopes that Azhar will not agonise too much over that move made by the selectors. Time will prove that losing the captaincy was the best thing that could have happened to him.

Perhaps it was fitting therefore that Azhar, relieved of all his excess mental baggage, redeemed himself at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta. After all, this was the same ground where the former Indian captain and his lady love were blamed for India's debacle in the World Cup semi-final. One wonders whether Azhar actually had a point to prove in the second Test against South Africa in Calcutta.

Maybe he did, because he batted like a man who did not have a care in the world. The planets had all aligned. The stars were in their place. The world, Azhar's world, was at peace.

He then went one step ahead. He carried his genius with him to Kanpur. No one could predict that Azhar was going to be so savagely brilliant in Calcutta. Just as he was going to be so coldly murderous at Kanpur. A few adventurous people tried to put a theory to it. But there was none. The beauty of those knocks were highlighted by the sheer unpredictability of it all.

At the Eden Gardens, Azharuddin hauled himself up the tower of greatness. On completing the fourth fastest Test century ever, he raised his bat arrogantly to the dressing room. He ignored the crowds as if to say; "if you can't be with me in my hour of despair, then you have no right to share in my moment of glory."

For the record, Azharuddin has claimed that he is 'off-press' (except for a chosen few). He does not want to



give interviews, or get quoted. One gets the impression that he is trying to go back to his roots. Maybe he is searching for that innocent little boy which he knows existed in him six years ago. Azhar is trying to pick up the threads of his life and put it together. He wants to do this in his own way; privately and with a little help from Sangeeta. Though allegedly, there are times when he believes that the captaincy will come back to him. It is best that he turns these thoughts away.

Till some time ago, the captain, the cricketer and the individual in Azharuddin was answerable to so much. This relationship was unsuitable to him. It made him claustrophobic. It stifled his creativity. On the cricket pitch, he was all swing and no drive. Somewhere along the line it had to end. Maybe anonymity is going to be the best answer. After all, it brings out the best in Azharuddin.

A gentle, introverted man who plays cricket on his terms: with a savage brilliance. How profound!

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

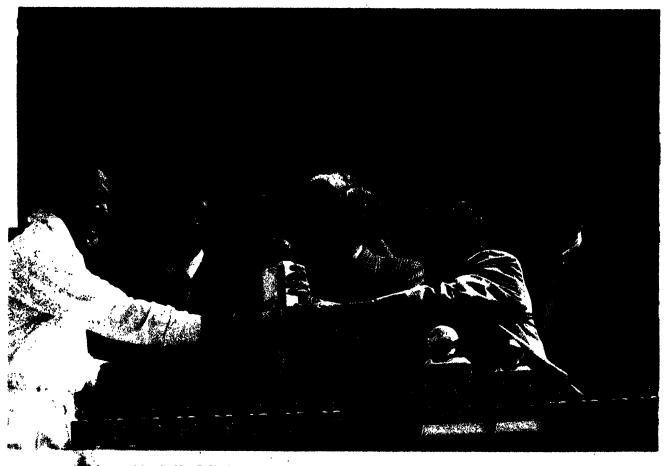
COMPILED BY HARI PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

Azhar: At The Eden Gardens

IN TEST CRICKET

110: vs England
141: vs Pakistan
60: vs West Indies
182: vs England
*109: vs South Africa
52: vs South Africa
52: vs South Africa
110: vs England
21d Test, 1st innings, Eden Gardens, 1984-85
21d Test, 1st innings, Eden Gardens, 1993
22nd Test, 1st Innings, Eden Gardens, 1996
22nd Test, 2nd innings, Eden Gardens, 1996

* On his way to scoring 109, Azhar reached the hundred mark in just 74 balls, which is the fastest Test century at the Eden Gardens. He also equalled Kapil Dev's record of the fastest Indian Test centurion. Kapil achieved this feat vs Sri Lanka at Kanpur in 1986-87 in all, it is the fourth fastest century in Test Cricket history.



Azhar receiving the Man Of The Series Trophy at Kanpur after the conclusion of the India-South Africa Test series

IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

49 : vs Pakistan, 18.2.1987

44: vs West Indies, 2.1.1988

54*: vs Sri Lanka, 4.1.1991, Asia Cup final

16: vs South Africa, 10.11.1991

90: vs South Africa, 24.11.1993, Hero Cup semifinal

38 : vs West Indies, 27.11.1993, Hero Cup final

41: vs West Indies, 5.11.1994, Wills Trophy final

0: vs Sri Lanka, 13,3,1996, World Cup semifinal

Century in both the innings at the Eden Gardens

162 and 101: Everton Weeks-WI vs India 3rd Test 1948-49 107 and 182*: Sunil Gavaskar-India vs W.I 3rd Test 1978-79 102 and 133: Gary Kristen-South Africa vs India 2nd Test 1996

* It was the 43rd instance of scoring centuries in both the innings of a Test match.

Century by both the openers at the Eden Gardens

Andrew Hudson (146) and Gary Kirsten (102): South Africa vs India, 2nd Test, 1st innings, 1996.

* It is the 34th instance of scoring centuries by both the openers in Test Cricket

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALOKE MITRA



Azhar notched up an unbeaten 163 in the third Test at Kanpur against South Africa. An innings of wristy flicks and lofted drives

Azhar's Centuries

110: vs England 3rd Test, Eden Gardens, 1984-85 105: vs England 4th Test, 2nd innings, Madras 1984-85 122: vs England 5th Test, Kanpur, 1984-85 199 : vs Sri Lanka 1st Test, Kanpur, 1986-87 141: vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Eden Gardens, 1987 110: vs Pakistan 3rd Test, Jaipur, 1987 109 : vs Pakistan 2nd Test, 2nd innings, Faisalabad, 1989 192: vs New Zealand 3rd Test, Auckland, 1990 121: vs England 1st Test, Lords, 1990 179: vs England 2nd Test, Manchester, 1990 106 : vs Australia 4th Test, 2nd innings, Adelaide, 1991-92 182: vs England 1st Test, Eden Gardens, 1993 108: vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test, Bangalore, 1994 3rd Test, Ahmedabad, 1994 152: vs Sri Lanka 109: vs South Africa 2nd Test, Eden Gardens, 1996

Fourth festest hundred in Test cricket

163 n.o.: vs South Africa 3rd Test, Kanpur, 1996

56 balls by Viv Richards
67 balls by Jack Gregory
71 balls by Roy Fredericks
74 balls by Kapil Dev
74 balls by Mohd. Azharuddin
8 West Indies vs England, Antigua, 1986
8 Australia vs South Africa, Johannesburg, 1921-22
9 West Indies vs Australia, Perth, 1975-76
9 India vs Sri Lanka, Kanpur, 1986-87
9 India vs South Africa, Eden Gardens, 1996

74 balls by Mohd. Azharuddin : India vs South Africa, Eden Gardens, 1996

* Ultimately Azhar scored 189 is 74 balls with 18 boundaries and one six



BACK WITH A BANG!

follow-on—reflected the mood in the dressing room. There was just that hint of desperation in Azhar who, rightly decided to hit his way out of trouble.

That he could really blaze away, he had shown while scoring a century off 62 balls in a one-day international—a record which has been twice rewritten this year. The flurry of shots at the Eden almost matched that feat.

In between some awestruck moments, SUMIT MUKHERJEE managed to translate his thoughts into words. He describes AZHARUDDIN'S consecutive centuries at Calcutta and Kanpur

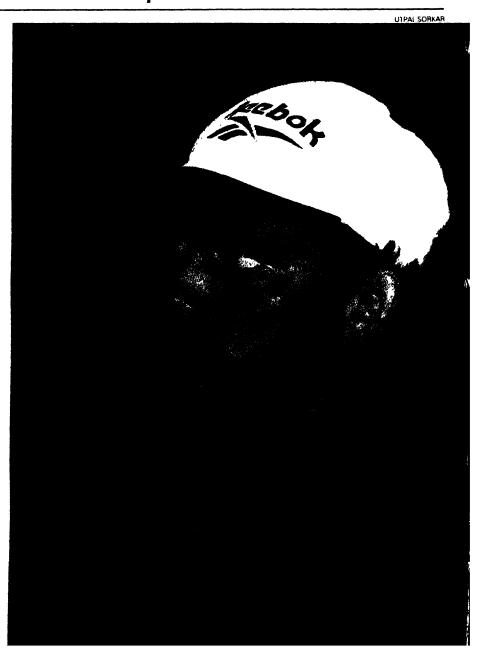
IKE most renowned artists, he is moody, temperamental, supremely gifted and loves to express himself with confident, bold strokes. The only difference being that his canvas is an entire cricket ground, and instead of a brush, he uses a willow. Yes, Mohammed Azharuddin is an unconventional artist whose genius often transforms cricket into an art form.

For those who were witness to the successive masterpieces he produced at the Eden Gardens and Green Park, it was an experience of a lifetime. The soft, subtle flick, the classical cover drive, the arrogant pull, even the audacious hook—it was all there; the sheer range of his expression was breathtaking!

Pushing and prodding clearly does not form part of his batsmanship. He does not even require time to settle down. It is as if he has had a long session in the nets just before having gone in, and is ready to flow with the very first ball. And, that is what he did. Like the Ganga during monsoons, he was in spate—devastating the opposition bowlers with the sheer force of his strokeplay.

There was hardly anything to choose between the two centuries he scored in Calcutta and Kanpur. The one at Eden, which came in the face of a crisis—the team on the verge of

The tormented genius in Azharuddin is hungry for runs yet again





A despondent Graham Gooch had remarked in 1993 after England were singed by Azhar's fiery display in Gwalior, where India won back-to-back one-dayers: "No captain can set a field to Azhar when he gets going. He simply was unstoppable."

Hansie Cronje's South Africans were just as helpless in the face of the Azhar blitzkrieg. When in that mood, it is unlikely any bowler will get him before he gets out. He usually would have done enough damage by then. In Calcutta, Azhar was in one of those moods.

In contrast, the 100 at Kanpur was a more methodical knock. Though the beginning was anything but sedate, Azhar really stepped on the gas once he had passed his half-century and again when he had completed his century.

Azhar hardly played the ball in the air in course of these innings. Only once did he step out to Pat Symcox in Kanpur only to hoist him into the stands. More importantly, he played all round the wicket.

A slightly more open stance has brought about a revival of his off-side play. The delicate flick off his pads, which he can easily market under his own brand name, continues to be his

bread and butter shot and leg-side still very much his favoured area. If Sourav Ganguly is to be believed, Azhar's ability to flick a ball from his fifth off-stump to the leg, is God's gift to him. And, it is neither easy nor advisable to change what comes to you naturally.

The new stance is helping him to move back and across instead of just shuffling ungainly. By going back and across Azhar is now in a better position to know where his off-stump is, thereby giving him the liberty to choose which balls he should leave alone.

It is also helping him to cope with the short balls better. Right throughout his career Azhar has had problems with the rising ball. He has tended to duck into them rather than sway out of harm's way which has resulted in his taking nasty blows on the body as well as his helmet.

But now with a predominantly two-eyed stance, he can exercise both options—get into the right position to hook or duck. So dominant was Azhar in Kanpur that even Sachin Tendulkar, his senior partner, was simply reduced to a spectator at the non-striker's end. "He was hitting the ball so well that there was no need for

me to hit out. He needed support from, the other end and I was only too happy to play the second fiddle,"
Sachin had said after the match.

The ploy has worked very well on the slow Indian tracks, but how beneficial it will be on the harder and bouncier pitches in South Africa and the West Indies only time will tell.

The Calcutta hundred may have saved the follow-on for India, but it was not enough to save the match. But, in Kanpur, his unbeaten 163 kind of psyched out the South Africans who were a defeated side even before they launched their second innings.

The Man of the Series award was some consolation for Azhar, who has, in the last one year, had more than a fair share of criticism heaped on him.

But, to his credit, Azhar has mostly let his bat do the talking whenever there has been any talk of his poor form. Yes, there have been low points in his career, but then who doesn't have lows?

Right now the angry young man of Indian cricket is enjoying a boom. As long as he is scoring runs, it matters little whether he talks to the press or not, for, the sheer joy of watching him bat can never be truly translated into text.

COMPILED BY HARIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

1 Srikkanth - Arun Lal: 7 Tests

2 Arun Lal - Navjyot Sidhu: 4 Tests.

3 Srikkanth - Navjyot Sidhu: 6 Tests

4 W. V. Raman - Navjyot Sidhu: 1 Test

5 W. V. Raman - Manoj Prabhakar: 2 Test

6 Navjyot Sidhu - Ravi Shastri: 4 Tests

7 Ravi Shastri - Manoj Prabhakar: 1 Test

8 Ravi Shastri - Srikkanth: 2 Tests

9 Ravi Shatri - W.V. Raman: 2 Tests

10 Ravi Shastri - Ajay Jadeja: 2 Tests

I I Ajay Jadeja - Manoj Prabhakar : 4 Tests

12 Manoj Prabhakar - Navjyot Sidhu: 12 Tests

13 Nayan Mongia - Navjyot Sidhu: 1 Test

14 Vikram Rathore - Ajay Jadeja: 1 Test

15 Vikram Rathore - Nayan Mongia: 3 Tests

16 Sanjay Manjrekar - Nayan Mongia: 1 Test

17 Nayan Mongia - Rahul Dravid: 1 Test

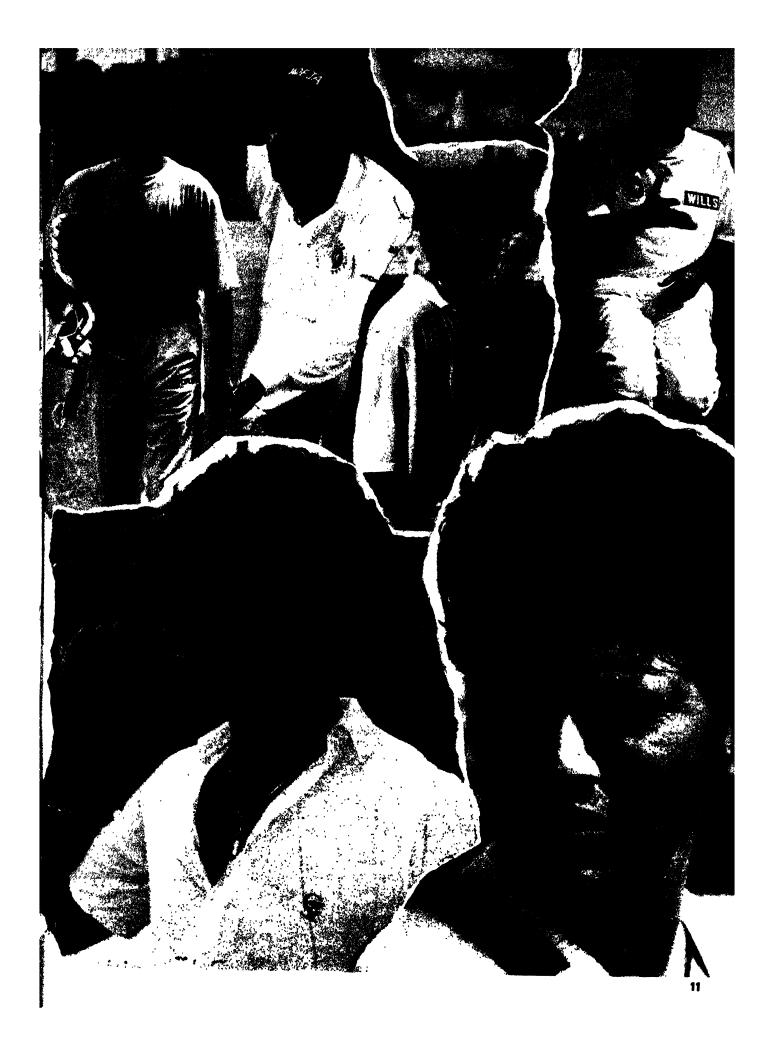
18 Nayan Mongia - W. V. Raman: 1 Test



★ Since the retirement of Sunil Gavaskar from Test cricket in March 1987, India have played 56 Test matches in the last 10 years till December 12, 1996. 18 opening pairs were tried out in those Tests. One Test match was washed out due to rain after just one hour on the very first day against Sri Lanka in July-August, 1993 at Kandy. As a result India could not bat in either innings. In the just concluded 3 Test series at home against South Africa, three opening pairs played in the three matches.

GOT AN OPENER?

After the retirement of Sunil Gavaskar, Indian cricket has still not____ managed to find a permanent opening pair. In 10 years, 18 pairs have been tried, and the search is still on



ON THE MAT!

CRAIG McDERMOTT has had his ninth operation on his knees. The chances are that the illustrious fast bowler's career might be over

FROM ANDY OF A PERTH

ADDY, are we having Christmas in Melbourne this year?" is a

common refrain in the household of Craig McDermott in the Gold Coast region of Queensland. As long as the answer to that question was a confident "yes", the career of Australia's fast bowling stalwart was in good shape. Five-year-old Alsiter McDermott and his sister Bryanna, 9, have known little else than a cricket Christmas in a Melbourne five-star hotel for the traditional Boxing Day Test.

This year in September,
McDermott's festive plans were
dramatically altered when a chronic
knee problem flared up during a
Brisbane club game. So, rather than
spending the big day in Melbourne
with his extended cricketing family, it
was a quiter homespun Christmas this
year for the McDermotts.

McDermott is recovering from his latest cricket related surgery which many feel is likely to be his last, especially as a Australian fast bowler. While the 31-year-old veteran recuperates, a rising tide of younger men are set to swamp Australia's second higest wickettaker by the time he recovers in February.

This is McDermott's 14th operation—nine on his knees, three on his groin, one for hernia and one for a twisted bowel. For the first time McDermott admits that the end may be near.

"You can't rule it out," he says.
"We'll see in February if it comes to
that. But the doctor is confident and so
am I. It's a setback. I've had a couple
and I have bounced back from them
and I think I can do it again. I've learnt
not to dwell on the past. You've got to
look to the future and make
something out of it."

McDermott, who has taken 291 wickets in 71 Tests, has had a terrible injury record over recent years, failing to finish five overseas tours since 1993. McDermott last played for Australia in the World Cup in India in February, but broke down with a torn calf muscle during the first match against Kenya and was sent home. It was his fifth tour in a row that he had failed to finish because of injury or illness. Over and above this dismal away record, McDermott has been left out of recent tours of England, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, West Indies and India because of injury.

Speculation is therefore growing that even if McDermott does make another remarkable comeback, the injury-hit spearhead will not be selected for an overseas tour with Australia again. His latest knee surgery may end in "Home Tests only" being stamped on his passport.

Most felt that McDermott may in fact be left stranded on the doorstep of the stellar 300 wicket club. Apart from being Australia's second most successful bowler (291 wickets at 28.63 from 71 Tests; compared with Dennis Lillee's 355 at 23.93 from 70 matches) he is also only the third bowler after Wasim Akram and Kapil Dev, to claim more than 200 one day scalps.

Now no.300, and certainly no.356 to overhaul Lillee (the goal he so aspired to, in recent years) may have come to an emotionally and physically painful end. According to his birth certificate, McDermott should be young enough to fight off yet another operation. But a dozen

years pounding the world's pitches becomes double time on a fast bowler's body calendar.

McDermott always maintained tha the fast bowlers had the toughest job in the game. But as they say, being right will be no consolation as he sees a younger crop of bowlers take up the challenge for Australia. Glen McGrath has already assumed the no. 1 mantle and the places of Paul Reiffel and Damien Fleming are under threat from Jason Gillespie and a host of younger bowlers waiting on the sidelines. It is ironic that McDermott had an insatiable work ethic and worked doubly hard to keep himself fit, a routine which might have contributed to his injuries.

"I prepare like no other fast bowler prepares in Australia," he boasts. "I put in 100 per cent to be the best I can but after 15 years, the body is starting to show signs of wear and tear." McDermott's test comes when the Australian team is picked to make a tour of South Africa in February.

But the signs are not good because this time the knee had succumbed to wear and tear and had been reduced to bone rubbing on bone—and this is precisely the diagnosis that put his former new ball partner Merv Hughes out of the game three years ago. Hughes played just two more Tests after that diagnosis.

There is now a growing awareness amongst cricket establishments all over the world that they must develop a system nursing their fast bowlers through an ever increasing workload, without putting them at a financial disadvantage.

"The years of hard work have taker their toll on me and the amount of cricket we play has doubled over the last few years," he admits.

McDermott has confided in some friends that if he finds the odds are stacked against him, he is unlikely to linger long beyond his use-by date, as Hughes did. McDermott will then

Craig McDermott, since 1993, has been unable to complete five overseas tours because of injury

retire to his spacious two-storied house he has built in a waterfront estate on the picturesque Gold Goast. Two jet skis and a Malibu surfing board reflect McDermott's love for water and how he will spend his leisure time after his cricketing days are over.

On the work side, apart from his diligent fitness work during the recent off season, he was working six or more days a week with his home construction company, McDermott Developments. The company has taken off this year and McDermott has found the niche he will pursue once his cricketing days are done with.

"Dad was in the building game for 30 odd years, so during the school holidays I would be around the building sites and helping out. Building homes and selling them has always been a passion for me," he says.

Beside that, McDermott will also be pursuing his newly acquired hobby of collecting cricket souvenirs. It is something of a McDermott tradition that he swaps a playing shirt with a leading fast bowler from the opposition after each series. The shirts of Allan Donald, Curtly Ambrose, Patrick Patterson, Courtney Walsh and Mery Hughes are displayed in one handsome showcase in his home. "I've taken to collecting a little more seriously over the past few years," he says. "I've just got hold of a autographed painting of Sir Donald Bradman which I am very proud of. There are bats, caps, framed caricatures, photos....all I need now is to construct a room for it all."

The problem is that his wife Sue won't give him permission to build that just yet. Sue, in her uncanny Irish way. has been a major support for McDermott. She has a shrewd business sense herself and the same bug for physical fitness as her husband. During all the comebacks McDermott has made from injury in recent years, his wife has been right beside him, sometime literally. She has run four half marathons herself

SANTOSH GHOSH

and sometimes goes jogging with her husband.

"I know the effort Craig has put in over the years when things have been stacked against him," she says. "He has put so much into each comeback. He has deserved his rewards. Support is very important. Even when Craig has had a bad day on the field, I make him realise that he has two lovely kids and a loving family."

Those words may be repeated by Sue to her husband in the very near future when he decides to hang up his spikes and commit to spending all his future Christmases at home...not in Melbourne.

INTERVIEWED BY HARESH PANDYA

IT is possible that Bob Woolmer, born in Kanpur in India on May 14, 1948, will go down in cricketing history as an innovative, thorough coach than as a graceful right-handed batsman. He has done wonders for the South African team in the last two years with his new methods and positive thinking. So much so, some critics tend to rate him higher than even Bob Simpson who to many, was the very definition of a cricket coach.

In only seven Tests against Australia this genial man hit three centuries. Just when his international career was blossoming splendidly, he joined Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket played Down Under and committed a harakiri of sorts. Woolmer was indeed a very talented batsman with a casual air and touch, whose drives were a thing to behold. It was not without reason that in England he was compared with the legendary Colin Cowdrey, albeit for a while.

Woolmer was also a useful medium-fast bowler blessed with a special talent to swing the ball considerably in cloudy conditions. He was a safe close-in fielder who could also keep wickets in an hour of crisis. An injury compelled Woolmer to call it a day somewhat prematurely. In a first-class cricket career spanning seventeen years, Woolmer scored 15,772 runs at 33.55 (including 34 hundreds) and claimed 420 wickets at 25.87 apiece and held 240 catches and effected 1 stumping. In 19 Tests, he made 1,059 runs at 33.09 (including 3 centuries) and took 4 wickets at 74.75 apiece and garnered 10 catches.

The rosy-cheeked Woolmer, who has played for Kent, Natal, Western Province and England, settled in South Africa after retiring from the game he loves so much. Before becoming South Africa's coach, Woolmer had coached Kent in 1987 and Warwickshire between 1991 and 1994.

Excerpts from a candid conversation with Woolmer:

When do you think the concept of a professional coach for an international cricket team on a long-term basis come into force? I think it actually started with Bobby Simpson when

Bob Woolmer played cricket for 19 years before he took us coaching and that's why he understands the game so well



ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

BRAINS ID BYTES

BOB WOOLMER and his computer are like inseparable friends. Together, they form the strategies and formulas that has transformed the South African cricket team into world beaters

Allan Border took over the captaincy of the Australian team. It was a very weak side, what with several experienced players retiring simultaneously. But Simpson's coaching and Border's leadership turned Australia into a winning side. So Simpson proved in no uncertain terms that an experienced and professional coach, when given a team to handle for a long period of time, could make a world of difference to the side's fortunes. Since then the trend has been followed by many other international teams, including Sri Lanka. There are a terrific number of one-day internationals and Tests being played nowadays. A captain remains very busy handling the team the print and electronic media and many other such things. In such circumstances, a coach can take some pressure off the captain.

basically a talented player needs is some technical adjustment and a few encouraging words. You should constantly remind him of his own ability and assure him that he is capable of great things.

How did the offer to coach the South African team come?

In 1994, I had been coaching Warwickshire and I was approached by two English journalists on a Sunday in September in Bristol where we were playing a one-day game. They asked me if I knew that Mike Procter was sacked as South Africa's coach. I said I didn't. They revealed I was one of the men the United Cricket Board of South Africa had in mind to replace Procter. Of

If the South Africans are considered the fittest side in international cricket, it's because of the innovative drills that Woolmer improvises for them



Besides taking "some pressure off the captain," what other roles can a coach play?

He can play many other roles. And he does. Otherwise, you wouldn't have a coach. He looks after the technical side of the batsmen and the bowlers; he even looks after their form; he looks after their mental side, their physical preparation; he looks after their practice, their physical preparation; their

form. He tries to bring the best out of each individual player. If a player is having a bad time despite being very talented in his discipline, a word of advice from the coach sometimes enables him to regain his form. What

course, then I received a phone call from Dr. Ali Bacner himself, asking me if I was interested to coach the South Airican team. When I answered in the affirmative, he advised me to come down to South Africa for an interview. So I left England on the following Monday and I went for the interview on Friday. So this was how it all started.

What were the first things that you did with the South African team after your appointment as the coach?

Obviously, I had to see and know and understand all



Woolmer shares a great rapport with Hansie Cronje both on and off the field. Here they acknowledge the sporting and supportive crowd at Eden Gardens after their victory

the players. Only a week after my appointment, we went on a tour to Pakistan for one-day games. And that was interesting. I understood what was happening and how the things were going for and within the team I was in charge of. We didn't do well in Pakistan. In fact, we lost all six matches there. So I had to restructure the whole team from the practice point of view. I had to bring in different methods of practice to bring the best out of the players. I had to bring in a whole new wave in this regard. My past experience as coach helped me here and it was also a good opportunity to be involved with some top players and to learn from them at the same time. As a coach I feel I have always been on a learning curve as well. No cricketer has ever said that his knowledge of the game is thorough. Like in chess, there is always another move in cricket, too, which someone finds out later on. So it was a great learning experience for me to begin with. But slowly and surely, over a period of time, I think I've hit a couple of right buttons. And we have done quite well.

Do you get the kind of response from all the South African players as you actually want?

Yes, I think so. They are all very co-operative and willing to learn and improve their game further. So I am very happy and enjoying my association with each one of them.

You are said to be laying too much emphasis on

strenuous practice? Do your players sometimes complain of fatigue?

We only practise as hard as they want to. We don't practise excessively. I know I've to give them days off. And I do. But they enjoy to practise for hours. They are a very committed, very professional unit.

Have you ever felt the generation gap with regard to the members of the South African side?

Well, I am a baby at heart. I will remain a teen-ager for the rest of my life. I may look old but I am young in my approach to almost anything. And I like to be a part of the team. As far as the generation gap goes, I am only 12 years older than Dave Richardson. So it's not too big a generation gap, if you are inclined to call it so. I do get involved with the youngsters. I took the Under-25s to Sri Lanka a year and half ago and we got on very well. I spend a lot of time in the off season also—coaching kids who are 9 to 19 years old. I have got two children myself aged 14 and 17. So I always try not have a generation gap, if I can help it.

How do you deal with the out-of-form players to lift their morale?

There are various things to bring them on the right track. If they are very good players, it is only a small matter to do so. I reckon a healthy 15-minute talk will do the trick. But I think it's hard to coach and guide those who have never played a game in their life. It's not difficult with the others. Those who have played the game can get themselves back into form quickly. The coach merely acts as a catalyst. He tries and finds out what is actually wrong with the players concerned and works on their faults or drawbacks, whatever they may be. In other words, he just tries and reintroduces them to their skills and confidence.

How much importance do you give to the mental toughness of a player?

Any player who gets into the international level does have the mental toughness. You can't reach there if you haven't got it. Even a first-class cricketer knows the importance of the mental toughness in a game like this. But it is especially vital in Test cricket. For it is a severe test of your technical as well as mental gifts.

Do you practise sports psychology with your players?

There is no such thing as sports psychology. This word called psychology has to do with life, with situations. Psychology used in sports is slightly different. But there is no sports psychology as such. Of course, now the psychologists dabble in sports. The biggest breeding ground for the so-called sports psychologists would be cricket because cricketers have to go through the mill when out there in the middle.

Looking at your success, you must have had

offers from other countries to coach their teams....

I can't take full credit for whatever success South Africa has been enjoying in world cricket today. I think the foundation for it was already laid by Clive Rice, Kepler Wessels and, of course, Mike Procter. You have to give a great deal of credit to Hansie Cronje's brilliant captaincy also. The important thing is we have got some really talented, world-class players so it is but natural that they should reach the top, both individually and collectively, with proper coaching and guidance. Contrary to what you believe, I have had no offers from other countries. I have been enjoying my tenure with South Africa. My contract will last till March 1998. Hopefully they will renew it again later on when I am still fit. I just do my job as well as I can. If anyone loves cricket more than I do, I would like to meet him. I am a cricket fanatic. I eat, drink and sleep cricket.

Do you feel if you had a coach like Bob Woolmer during your playing days, it would have made some difference to your cricket career? Without doubt, yes. I would have become a much better player, I am sure.

But you yourself could have applied all these methods of yours for your own betterment and success as a player.

I was a good player and a successful one at that. I played for 19 years.

But you didn't have a long innings in Test cricket....

There were various reasons why. I went to WSC. I went to South Africa in 1982 with Graham Gooch's Rebel team. So my Test career was cut short, really for a variety of reasons. But it doesn't mean I was a bad player. I was as good as some top players of my time. And I did quite well in Test cricket. Maybe I didn't do as well as some of the others but I still had a reasonable Test record. The point is I think I was born to be a coach. Both as a cricketer and as a person, I have always liked learning and sharing knowledge with people and that's precisely where I stand today. Whether I was successful or a failure as a coach is basically immaterial. What is important is the people I have been talking with and sharing my knowledge with are happy. They are keen to learn from me and I am happy about that. If the pressure is of winning or losing, I am too cool to really start worrying about it too much.

What kind of rapport do Hansie Cronje and you share?

Oh, we have a very good understanding. We talk a lot.

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So be aware. And be smart. Who knows the name in the next ad may be yours! We enjoy each other's company. He is 20 years younger than me but we have a good relationship. And we enjoy the game together. We have a lot of fun together. He pulls my leg a lot but I don't mind that. I just enjoy that.

How do you regard him as a captain?

I think he is a wonderful captain. He has got a terrific flair. I think he is a genius. He is really a top man manager. He handles his players very well. He is a deep thinker on the game.

There is a growing feeling that his otherwise brilliant batting is increasingly affected by the weight of captaincy....

No, I don't agree with that. I think that's absolutely rubbish. He just goes out there and does his best.

Woolmer with Peter Pollock. Both have been of great service to South African cricket though in different capacities



He is also said to be vulnerable against hostile fast bowling...

Who says so? There is nothing wrong with his technique or approach when he's up against the fast bowlers. He has often proved that he is as good against fast bowling as against spin bowling. He is a very fine batsman and one of the best in the world today.

What kinds of team meetings do you generally have when engaged in a

match/series/tournament?

We have lots of meetings. We have different meetings. But they are all thorough and professional meetings. We like to analyse people but not to such a degree that it's ridiculous. We just like to know where we are with the teams that we play. We have a lot of statistical information that comes out of my computer. And we try to pay attention to details.

Surely, you wouldn't mind saying something about your computer...

I think the computer is straightforward, really. If I had a full-time scorer, he would use it. But I don't have one. So I use it. And I use it usually for one-day cricket only. It helps us to see where we have got to start actually. It helps us know where we went wrong when we played last, what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong. what we can improve and so on and so forth. It also enables us to know where and when we can bowl better at Mohammad Azharuddin, at Graeme Hick. where we could play Javagal Srinath better and so on. You know those sort of things. But I don't use it in Tests. It comes in handy to pay attention to all those details in one-day cricket. It helps decide simple things like how a batsman holds his bat, how he is backing up when at the non-striker's end, whether there is a chance of running him out. The very nature of one-day cricket is such that even five runs, why even one run, could make a difference to a team's success or failure. The computer proves very useful in the study of one-day cricker. In Test cricket, you usually don't pay attention to details but so many things can happen in a five-day match also. And things can change. You are in a sound position and suddenly you start losing quick wickets and you have a fight on your hands. You can't plan that. Just like a game of chess --- you can't plan a game of chess-it evolves. But you can plan to a certain extent if you play time-chess where you have to plan your moves. Therefore you can plan a few good moves. It's my guess that you would be quicker in your position, then.

Do you sometimes lose your cool?

No, I think I am a pretty calm person. If a player gets out caught at mid-off, for example, why should I tell him that he shouldn't have played that shot? He himself knows he shouldn't have done that. No, there are no times when I get angry. If someone's commitment isn't right, I still talk to him nicely. But if he still doesn't improve, I might get a bit angry but just to try to shake him up. But I very rarely lose my cool. I lose my cool with somebody, if I am concentrating seriously on something and he interferes. It's slightly different then. I mean I like to do my things. I like to be available to the media. But if I am doing my job and somebody interferes with me, yeah I could lose my cool then. But normally I try to keep myself as calm as possible. One of my pieces of advice as a coach is to try to be as calm as possible and for as long as possible.

Where does Bob Woolmer differ from the professional coaches in the rest of the world?

First of all my name is different from the others! But, seriously, I can't compare myself with other coaches. I don't see them work. Nor do I work with them. Each coach has his own way and he does his own thing.



Brilliant Coach

T was truly a brilliant performance by coach Madanial on behalf of his team. His coaching helped India to emerge victorious in the Titan Cup final at Mumbai. Also, I don't think any other Indian coach has the distinction of leading the team to victory in his first Test match as well as an one-day tournament. This just goes to show that India has finally been blessed with a dedicated person

Even, in his playing days
Madanlal was praised for his
fighting instinct. No other coach
had taken such a keen interest in
improving the fielding standards
like Madanlal has. The strenuous
workouts has definitely paid rich
dividends.

Of course, Madanlal's job hasn't finished as yet. He'll have to maintain the winning touch not only in India, but also on foreign soil as well.

ARIJIT KUMAR DAS, Patna

Madman Gazza

THIS refers to your article on the English footballer Paul Gascoigne, 'Gazza' as we know him. (Sportsworld, Nov 20th, '96). It is known to all and sundry that Gazza has long been known for his unpredictable behaviour, both on and off the field. So, there is little wonder that he later admitted to beating his wife Sheryl for two years.

In any case, let's take a close look at the 'mad man', ' psychopath' angle of sportspersons in other disciplines.

Take the case of Diego
Maradona. What would you like
to call him, a junkie? An
eccentric? Wayward? Arrogant?
Egocentric? Scoundrel or what?
In one word you can describe him

completely: a psychopath.

Yet the media went ga ga over his exploits in the field and in the process ignored his off-the-field behaviour. Just see where he is now!

In fact, there are so many additions to the list. There is McEnroe, Miandad, Tyson to name a few. But they are all hero-worshipped mainly because the media projects their positive image and never gives importance to their darker sides. Here the excuse may be that we are only interested in these sportspersons' on-the-field actions and not their private lives. But does it hold water? No way. The media should equally focus on their off-the-field activities with some force and vigour....

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack

False Pride

THE Ahmedabad Test against I the South Africans saw yet another Indian victory on a tailor-made wicket. In retrospect, we will find that every win since the 1987-88 Madras Test versus Viv Richard's West Indies has come on overwhelmingly turning tracks. The Mohali track in early 1995 was the sole exception. Although the wicket was bereft of grass, it was hard enough to expose the frailty of the Indian batting against fast bowling. Of course, it's the prerogative of every home team to prepare wickets according to their bowling resources.

One must remember that the

Indian cricket team will never be regarded highly unless they play high quality cricket abroad. No matter how we thrash a visiting side on home soil, nothing will be recognised if we can't produce the same in away matches. And our record outside India is too dismal—just one away win since the 1986 English tour. The last time we pulled off a Test win abroad was against Sri Lanka in 1993.

Hope that the nature of pitches in India for both domestic and international matches will see a change to promote the standard of cricket.

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta

Plain Luck

SOUTH AFRICA as a team excelled in both fitness and commitment as was evident by their victories in the preliminary round of the Tuan Cup. The way they went on defeating the Aussies and the Indians, left the cricketing world wonderstruck. It

seemed as if they were unstoppable. Invincible.

So, it was a real pity that they were defeated by the hosts, India, in the final at Mumbai. Evidently, it is that word 'luck' that saw Tendulkar and his teammates emerge triumphant.

PAYOSHNI MITRA, Calcutta

SUDDEN IMPACT!

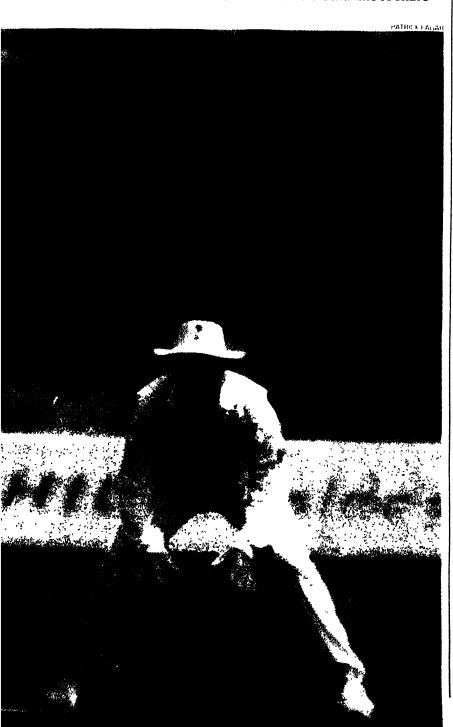
RAHUL DRAVID has been on the circuit for just under a year. Yet, he has established himself as a cricketer with character



In recent times if there has been one consistent performer in Indian cricket it has been Rahul Dravid. Ever since that memorable debut at Lords in early '96, Dravid has often been India's crisis man. Cool, composed and affable Dravid is any captain's delight. Willing to bat in any position he has always justified his selection in the playing XI and on many occasions has taken some incredible

catches fielding at sillypoint. The confidence he exudes on the field provides a source of confidence to all his teammates. Excerpts from a freewheeling interview.

Are there any special childhood memories or experiences that you cherish and would like to share



with the readers?

Not really. I led a very normal childhood like all other kids. I used to go to school and played cricket in the area where I lived. So, you know there were no extraordinary experiences which I can share. It was a very, very simple childhood.

In a country that does not encourage sport, how come you took up cricket as your career? Were your parents supportive of the decision?

Well, my father was very much interested in sports from the very beginning. He was a keen follower of cricket and he used to keep track of air the matches. In fact, it was because of him that I got interested in cricket. My father helped me a lot. Besides cricket I used to play hockey in my school days.

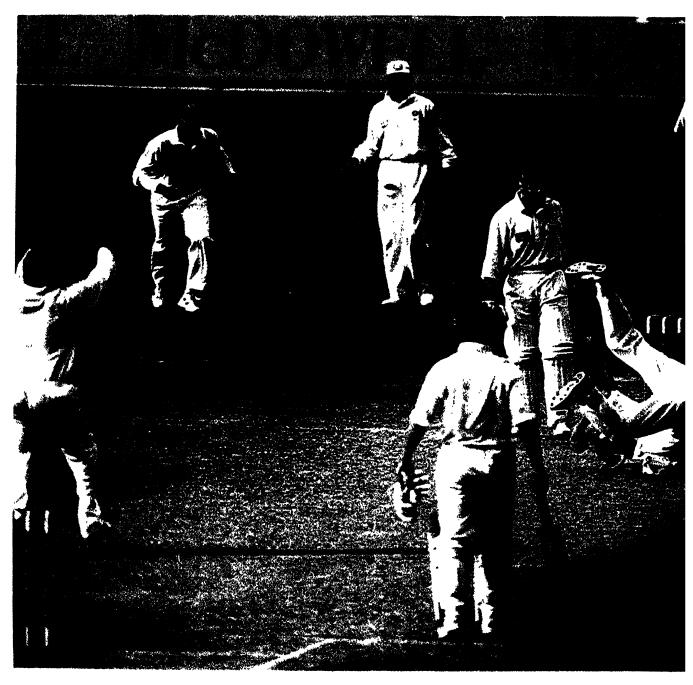
It is every cricketer's dream to make their Test debut at the hallowed Lords. You were lucky in that aspect. How was the experience?

Yeah, it was indeed great to make my debut at Lords. Before the match I was very tense. Thank God we had to field first. By the time my turn to bat came I was pretty much in the flow. Luckily, there was no pressure on me. I was very happy to score runs in my debut match, but at the same time I was disappointed at not getting my maiden Test century. It was really sad to get out on 95.

Even in the third Test at Trent Bridge you came close to scoring a century but even that did not materialise. What happened?

Actually before I went out to bat there was already enough runs on the board. My aim was to score as many runs as possible. In the process I got out. Yeah, I should have scored that century, but looking back I am not disappointed at that. Actually, I play for the team and I am happy that I

Memories...Dravid on the rampage at Lords where he scored 95 on debut. A dream start to a great career



could make it.

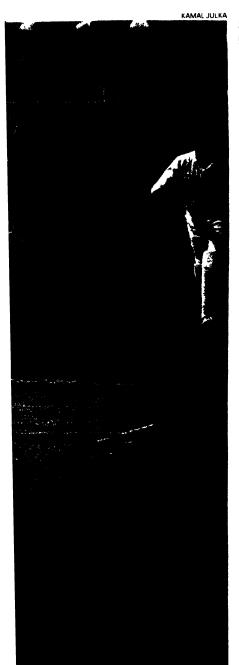
The problem area in Indian cricket seems to be the opening pair. Since you have also opened on some occasions, what do you think should be the right attitude of an opener?

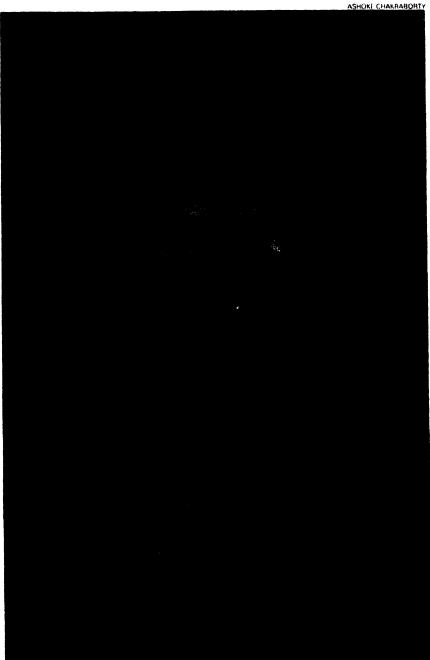
Well, I was just a stop-gap opener in the team. So whatever I might say may not be correct. There are some good players coming in so ve could 22 He may look unassuming and harmless, but when Dravid fields at sillypoint, the batsmen are always at risk. Gibbs risked it, but never got a second chance

get some good openers as well. As far as I am concerned, I believe openers should stick around as long as possible.

Related to cricket, what do you think are your technical problems that need to be ironed out?

Well, I have to improve my batting a lot. Like all the Indian batsmen I am also a bit weak playing genuine pace. But then again I have faced fast bowlers and played quite well. There are certain aspects which need a lot of improvement, but I do not want to get into details. I have regarded 1996 as a year of learning. I want to learn more and more and yeah, I have gathered some invaluable experiences as well.





You seem to be a very composed player. What about your strengths?

Mentally I am very organised. My mental attitude and my approach to the game are my main strengths.

You have said the 1996 was the year of learning. Every cricketer picks up some invaluable experiences on their first tour. What did you learn in your debut

Dravid is composed and unflappable both on and off the field

tour in England?

Well, the debut tour brought about many changes in me. I knew that I had to improve a lot. I also realised that I had to become more professional. I learnt that adjusting the mindset from Test cricket and one-dayers was also very important. The most important aspect was learning to play under

pressure. I am trying very hard and certainly hope to improve.

What has been the greatest moment in your career so far?

Actually there are many occasions.
One was when I helped the Karnataka team to win a Ranji trophy match. Of course my selection to the Indian team was a great moment for me. I was only too delighted and happy.

Interviewed by Mitali Ghoshal



N November 1996, as the afternoon sun bathed the poolside of the Oberoi Grand in Calcutta, Gary Kirsten reclining on a couch, recollected in tranquility—"The year of his life". Sipping a mug of chilled Kingfisher beer he

reminisced —"It has been a most satisfying season of cricket. To start off, I never really thought of recording world class performances."

In fact, only three years ago Gary and his elder brother Peter were shocked when neither of their names appeared on the duty roster of the South African team selected for the tour of India and Australia. But as fate would have it, both were to be called upon the Australian leg of that tour as replacements to injured Brian McMillan and Kepler Wessels. "We

ACHING FOR EATNESS

GARY KIRSTEN may not be the most flamboyant cricketer, but he certainly is one of the most consistent and dependable batsmen in the game today. He still has a lot of cricket left in him and he is willing to battle it out.... till the very end

BY RICA ROY

months." It was on the same tour that he made his debut at Melbourne scoring just 16.

Since that eventful day he has played in 23 Tests with a batting average little over 39. He scaled his place in the side with a century at Wanderers in Jo'burg against England. Still, Gary Kirsten realised that he was far from his peak. Humble to the core, he admitted, "By the end of that series I had a clear-cut assessment of myself. Always thought I was strong enough to climb to the top level but survival was difficult amidst fierce competition. What the England tour did was to plant in me enough courage to have a go at any opposition. With that confidence back in mind I began the World Cup campaign."

If there was any cricketer on whom the think-tanks did not have any dossiers on it was Gary Kirsten. It was only the English side which had an inkling of this cricketer's prowess. Popularly recognised as Peter's younger brother prior to the start of the competition, Gary announced his arrival to the international arena by plundering 188 runs in the opening game versus UAE, belting their attack on way to his record-breaking feat, surpassing Viv Richards' 181 against

Sri Lanka at Karachi. He had a total of 338 runs to his name before the quarter finals, courtesy an incredible array of scores (188 versus UAE, 38 against England, 44 against Pakistan, 35 runs versus New Zealand and 83 against Holland). Yet, fate had different plans for Kirsten and South Africa in the World Cup. Having not lost a match till the quarter finals they were defeated my a mediocre West Indian outfit. That was something that South Africa and Gary Kirsten will not forget in a hurry. "But then, it was just one bad match versus the West Indies that ended our phenomenal run. We lost the crucial one. That's cricket. You have to accept the twist of destiny", he said philosophically.

Following the World Cup was the Pepsi Cup in Sharjah, where Kirsten again was at his fluent best. He notched up a hundred against India and treated the Pakistani attack with total disdain. But it was his campaign in the final that won him all the applause. He came in like a disciplined soldier when the chips were down, with the express intention of anchoring the innings. By virtue of his barn-door determination he took his side to what was reckoned as a spectacular victory on a wicket where the ball seamed and even swung,

certainly had no idea that both of us would be walking out together to open the innings in a crucial World Series fixture in Perth, some six months hence. Opening, however, had been the topic of conversation between us in all those earlier

making things most difficult for the batsman. A well deserved 'Man of the series' coupled with the 'Man of the match' for the final was the result. But Kirsten puts it down to team work and according to him, "It was not the best of my innings in terms of fluency, but under the situation it was an effort to remember. I batted on instructions.

succeed. Kirsten Jr. put this in perspective when he said, "I grasp whatever opportunities I get. Right now I'm 29 and frankly enough, I don't see this career extend beyond 4 to 5 years from now. So, this is the time for me to perform at the peak. I've watched my brother's career very closely. He has been a tremendous



Everyone who came in supported me."

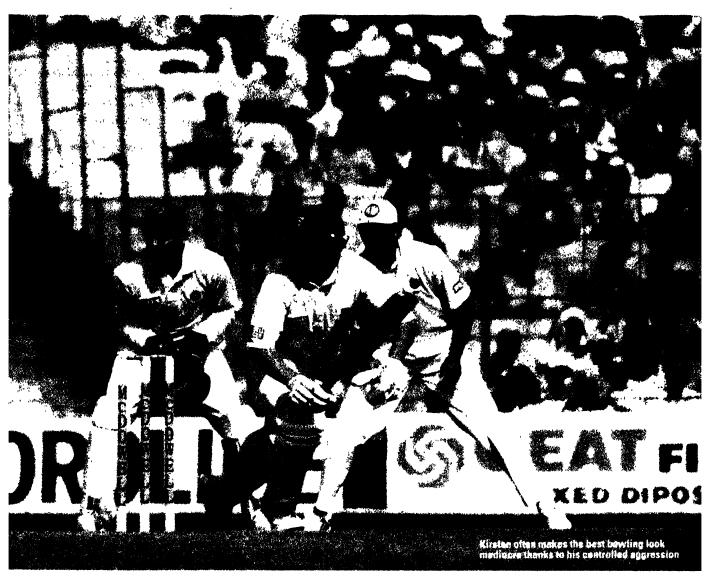
This tough, nuggety left hander provides a start contrast to Kirsten Sr. in terms of cricketing ability. Gary is thirteen years junior to his half brother, and made his provincial debut for the Western Province senior side in 1988/89. The debutant had much less natural ability and skill than the elder statesman but made up for this with a steely determination to

inspiration for me, and a big influence as well. I play my cricket for him. He has been there helping me appreciate the fullness of the game, keeping me focussed and not allowing to be distracted by outside elements."

The rise from commoner to celebrityhood has been quite rapid for Kirsten. Still, a sudden encounter with fame and stardom hasn't swept him off his feet and he still retains that natural humility and charm, so hard







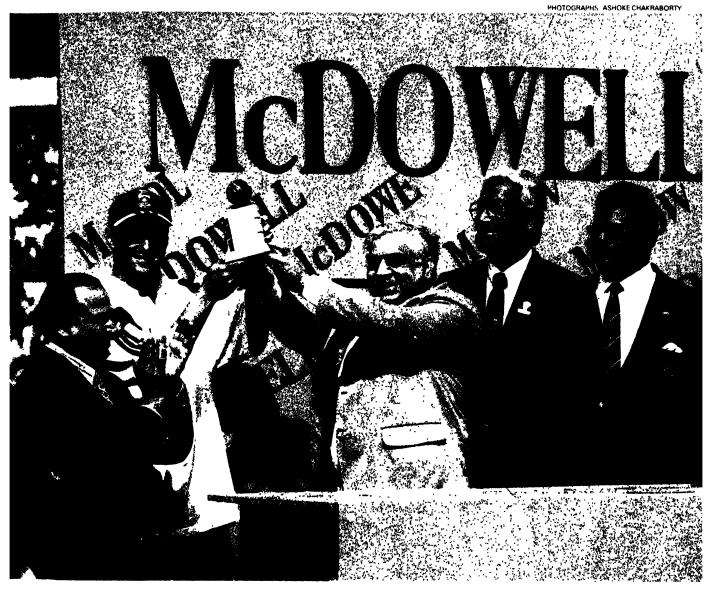
to come by in today's superstars. He confirms that the South African side has 11 performers on any given day. Any one who has witnessed the intensity and depth of South African cricket will vouch for the view that Kirsten endorses. "Nobbdy can really acquire the berth of a 'superstar' in the South African team because all of us perform to the best of our ability, play total cricket. Somebody hits a century, other guy takes 5 wickets. Not much of importance is laid on personal glories Only then, one is motivated enough to perform on the next outing," said Kirsten.

Several of Gary Kirsten's innings have been an object of lesson to the opposition and these days anyone

playing against South Africa scrutinise Kirsten's game before every match. The South Africans have set themselves high standards with special regard to discipline, honing their natural skills and maximising their fitness. Kirsten is respected by his opponents as a gritty competitor and a dispatcher of the poor bowling.

This facet of Kirsten was on show in Eden Gardens in both the centuries that he scored there. He seemed absolutely unstoppable until his adrenalin got the better of him. The hundreds were studded with square and straight drives and clinical leg-side play that rarely failed to find its gap. Even an in-form Srinath and Prasad were not spared. His 327

minute partnership with Daryll Cullinan in the course of his second 100, which put on record a second wicket stand of 202 was full of sublime stroke play and effervescent running between the wickets. He never really whipped the bowler or whacked the ball for the sheer fun of it. Rather, both innings had large doses of controlled aggression and responsibility that made him emerge as the 5th player in the history of the game to score centuries in both innings of a Test match. He defined them as, "A revelation! It was tough batting for over 8 1/2 hours but in the end it's always nice to have rewards like this." In his tribute to Calcutta and its cricket lovers he said. "Eden Gardens will



always be there in my golden memories. When I score a century on any ground henceforth, the atmosphere of Eden Gardens will keep coming back to my mind. This indeed was the most thrilling week of cricket action for me over the past one year. It was always a big challenge to score runs on subcontinental wickets. Basically they are great to bat on, and the problems are posed by the spinners. It's difficult to get them away at times. But then, when you are prepared to bat for long, bigger totals will surely come.

In a very short span Gary Kirsten has carved a niche for himself: that of the most durable opener in modern day cricket. That total commitment so

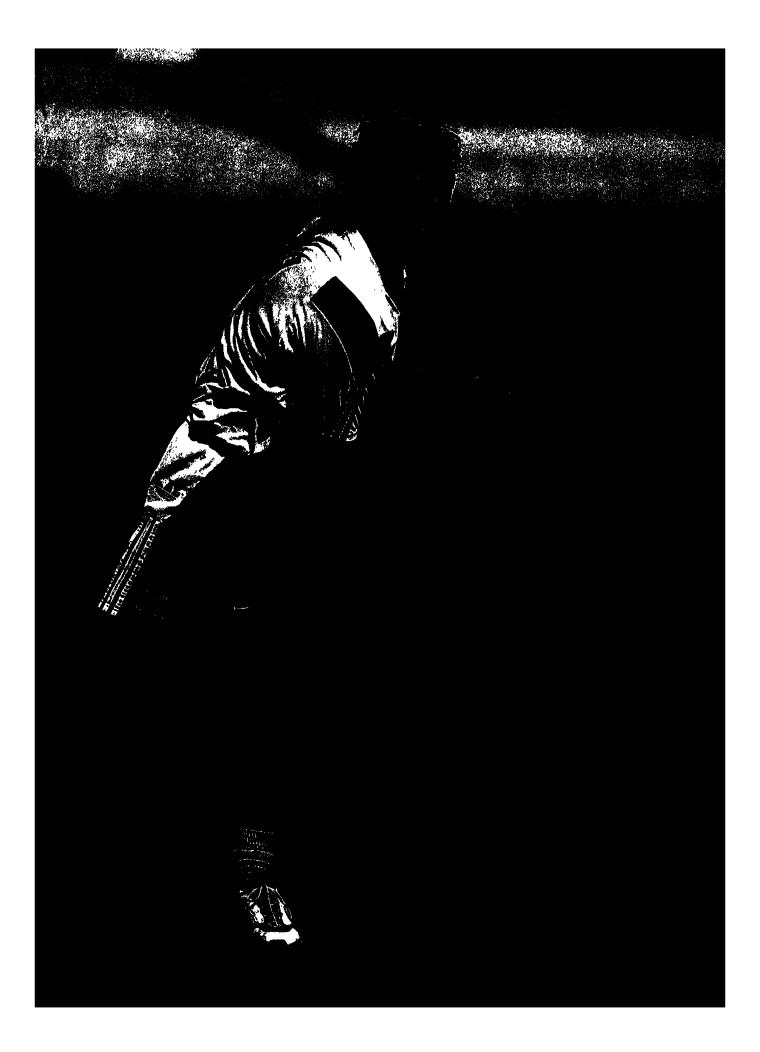
Rewards of a good day at work...Kirsten receiving the man-of-the-match after those stupendous inning's at Calcutta

evident in every South African cricketer is never at a premium with Kirsten. As he admitted, "Cricket is my life—blood, it may not be my only way of life, still, I'm a committed professional. Nothing, save my form and fitness will keep me away from my national duties." That precisely is what reflects in his attitude, and above all his attachment towards the game. But take away that veneer of professionalism, and there exists an emotional side that is rarely put on view. One such rare occurance was when he said, "Emotional moments?"

"There has been several—the

formost was playing with my brother, Peter, at Lords. Who would have believed it?"

Way back in 1993, when the brothers were initially not picked in the squad the Kirstens pondered over the complexities of cricket and life in general. At that time they surely would not have visualised the path that Gary Kirsten's cricketing career would take. Now, three years have already passed in between, and Gary, after a hard grind has consolidated himself in the world of international cricket. Every time he is out in the middle, there's a tremendous zeal that goes with him -"to make bigger statements with the bat."



BIG MAC!

In international cricket today, BRIAN McMILLAN of South Africa is one of the biggest, meanest and most motivated all rounders

BY RICA ROY

HE boys of Western Province Preliminary school in South Africa must really be thrilled! They do not have to go beyond their school boundary to come face to face with their hero. And their hero is a man who goes around the world for his country making centuries, and scoring important runs in Test matches, taking wickets, unbelievable slip catches and running batsman out in one-day internationals.

They just cannot believe their luck, I suppose! The big, yet gentle, man who teaches them arithmetic and several other subjects in keeping with the economy of prep schools is also a national hero. And Brian McMillan, the South African cricketer currently rated as the best all rounder in the world, also makes a wonderful teacher very attached to his students. But he is hardly in school these days as he is always in the thick of action for South Africa. Always the sentimental type, McMillan speaks highly of his attachment to the institution that gave him a mission in life. The school till date retains him on a part-time basis, well aware of how good his image is for the school and how inspiring it is for the kids to have him on the premises, talking to them at times.

1992 has been the year of miracles for McMillan. They were silly enough to let him go from Transvaal. The move to Cape Town is what any wise man would like to do in life. The switch to the Western province had

Brian McMillan: placid and calm off the field, he is one of the most intense competitors in world cricket

also brought a touch of confidence to his cricket. It is certainly not easy to start out on a career in international cricket when you're 28. And it was not an easy task either to walk in to save South Africa from a crisis each time he came out to bat. McMillan failed with the bat in his very first Test outing against the West Indies, having missed the first Test of the series. through injury, but more than compensated with three for 52 from 37 overs. If he believed that his second Test would be easier for him, and the South African innings would be in better shape when his chance came to bat. McMillan was in for a rude shock. The South Africans were 73 for 5 against India when the big man walked in. He got on to 98 when he went for the hookshot and lost his wicket to a brilliant diving catch by Manjrekar. That was the only error the big hearted all-rounder committed on the day he got close to his first Test hundred. But eventually that did not bother him too much because his score played a vital role to his team's fortunes.

Today not only is he one of the toughest competitors in the game, he is also one of the most talented. Small wonder then that Brian Merven McMillan will celebrate his 33rd birthday just three days prior to Christmas with the tag of the world's top all rounder resting comfortably on his broad shoulders. It is no mean feat to reach the top of the highly competitive international cricket ladder in a space of just three years, though he has been helped by the void that has been left following the retirements of the other great all-rounders-Ian Botham, Imran Khan, Kapil Dev and Richard Hadlee. He has also given the credence to the

theory that cricketers reach their peak at 30. McMillan at present certainly seems to be at the height of his powers in every sense of the word.

It is quite alarming that in spite of his huge physique and a Carletonville (a small mining town) upbringing, he didn't take to rugby—the sport which happens to be the religion of people in that part of South Africa, where cricket virtually has no following. "I did play rugby as a junior for Western Transvaal," McMillan recalled, "first as a hooker and later as a flank when I started to get too big. Maybe I should have stayed in rugby judging by the salaries our World Cup players are earning these days," he added with a cynical grin.

Like his hero Ian Botham he is a highly physical all rounder who is capable of producing the inspiration that can turn a Test match in his team's favour. An illustration in this case would be the second Test against England when he had hardly got off the field, having scored his second century, when he was back with the ball to knock over Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash and provided just the impetus the Wanderers needed.

Like Botham, he loves taking the confrontation with the opposition right to the legal and permissable limit. A glare over his shoulder at the end of his follow-through followed by a few words of pointed invective are part of the McMillan course.

But the important thing is that he knows where to draw the line and there is normally a touch of humour to whatever barb is directed at the batsman. Allan Border, captaining Australia against South Africa in the 1993/94 series, went as far to say that McMillan "was up to Olympic class in the sledging stakes" and coming from

"I enjoy Test cricket more"

Says BRIAN McMILLAN in a frank interview

You are hailed as the best allrounder in the world today by many a discerning critic. Do you think you deserve the label?

I wonder if I deserve to be called the world's best allrounder. I don't look at myself that way. Maybe I am one of the three or four good allrounders in the world at the moment. But I don't believe in the numbers game.

Do we have allrounders of the class of Botham, Imran, Kapil and Hadlee in contemporary cricket? How do you view the two different eras?

The era in which they played was fantastic. Their presence made it more memorable. They were truly great allrounders. No doubt about that. I do not think we have got as many allrounders in today's cricket. It would appear that we have only a handful of them around. For instance, Wasim Akram and the Waugh brothers. They are very good players. So there are certain allrounders around. But not as many as in the old days.

How do you describe yourself as a bowler?

I may not appear very aggressive but there are variations in my bowling. At the end of the day I do my overs and I like to take as many wickets as I can. I don't have the pace of Allan Donald or Waqar Younis. Nor do I swing the ball as much as Fanie de Villiers. But I have got enough variations to pick up wickets.

Don't you think your task is sometimes made easier by Donald. De Villiers and Shaun Pollock because by the time you come on to bowl, they have generally removed a couple of batsmen?

Yes, when you come in as a first change and when you have men like Donald and De Villiers bowling the first overs, the opposition are often a couple of wickets down. But at times there is no wicket down when I come on to bowl. So you have to take the rough with the smooth. When you are a new ball bowler, things appear a lot easier when you come on to bowl as a first change. But, in reality, nothing is easy in Test cricket.

Being an allrounder you do not get enough opportunities to show your batting prowess, especially when you do not get to bat up in the order. What have you to say about this?

Actually, my captains have sent me higher in the order in a couple of Tests and one-day internationals. But as an allrounder if you are bowling quite a few overs in a day, to bat up in the order is very difficult.

Is there any particular shot which you play quite well and pretty often?

I think I like to reverse sweep 'Muscles' Raju's bowling! But generally I cut and pull. I think I am good on either side of the wicket. However, I don't have any preferable shot.

If your captain asks you to go up in the order and play the role of a pinch hitter, would you do so?

Very much, sir. If they want to open with me or bat me at one-drop, by all means I have got no problem with pinch hitting. In fact, I will relish it because it is quite nice to go up in the order and smash the bowlers.

And as a bowler?

I think we—Donald, De Villiers and I—all do our share as bowlers.

As an allround cricketer, what do you prefer, Tests or one-dayers?

One-day cricket is for the crowds, really. Test cricket is the real test of your skills and stamina. You can show your real art of bowling in Test cricket though it doesn't matter to me personally. But certainly I do enjoy Test cricket more as a player.

Which has been your finest allround show in Test cricket so far?

I've had quite a few memorable Tests as an allrounder, particularly against India, Pakistan and England. But it is difficult to single

an Australian that was really saying something.

Off the field any comparison between Botham and McMillan would be totally ludicrous. There is no heavy partying for the South African who prefers to spend his quiet time with wife Denise and his three children and transforms himself into a amiable smiling soul, far from the picture he portrays during the heat of Test match battles.

To complete the picture of McMillan as a true all-rounder he ranks alongside Australia's Mark Taylor as one of the world's leading slip catchers (he is also very useful at casting a huge intimidating shadow out any one particular Test and say I had done very well in it in all the departments of the game.

Do you talk much when on the field?

I do talk a lot with my colleagues on the field. And when I bowl, I talk with the batsmen.

How do you motivate yourself? It's very simple. I motivate myself by just playing cricket.

Have you set certain goals for yourself?

I have short-term goals. For instance, every time I go to bat, I want to score a hundred. Every time I bowl, I want to take 5 wickets.

How do you find the Indian crowds in the stands?

I have no problem with them. They are usually very large and noisy. They tend to support the Indian team most of the time.

What are your other interests? Golf, fishing and reading.

What kind of reading?

I do read a lot and listen to music. I read anything of interest. I enjoy reading books about wars. I like short stories, I like social reading. But I have no special choice when it comes to reading.

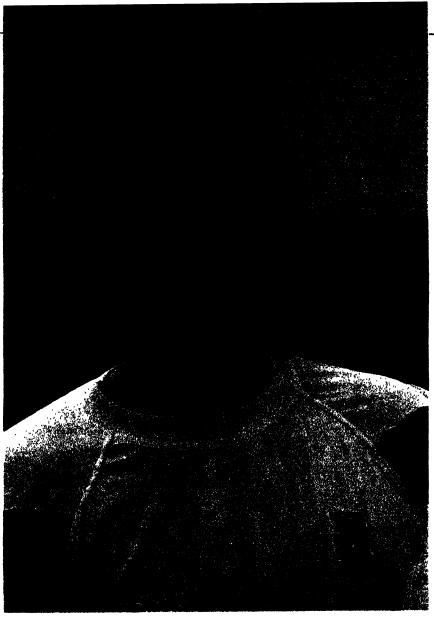
How long do you intend to continue playing?

As long as I can. As long as I am fit and enjoying my cricket. As long as I perform at this level (international cricket) of the game.

Interviewed by Haresh Pandya

over batsmen from silly point when spin is introduced) and his hands which are as large as every part of him, have often been compared to buckets.

Like other great players he often relies on instinct as much as anything



else to move quickly into top gear. His first ever Test match catch which provided left-handed Brett Schutlz with his first Test wicket and had Ajay Jadeja walking back to the pavilion was a case in point. Jimmy Cook, who was fielding at third slip, dived across McMillan who was fielding in second slip, and effectively blocked McMillan's vision. McMillan went the other way and triumphantly came out clutching the ball in one hand.

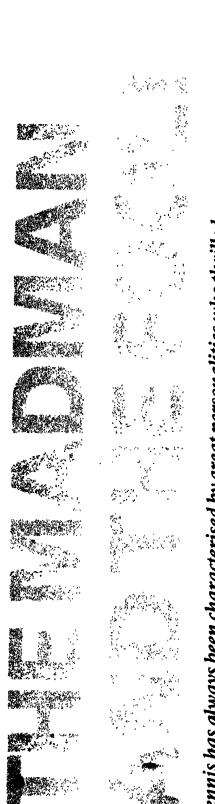
McMillan certainly remains an irreplacable player in the South African squad at the moment, although one has to accept that at the age of 32 he will become more of a batsman and less of a bowler in the future. There has been several injury problems which led to his withdrawal from the county circuit this summer.

McMillan is a teacher who, because of his hectic cricket schedule, rarely gets time to teach

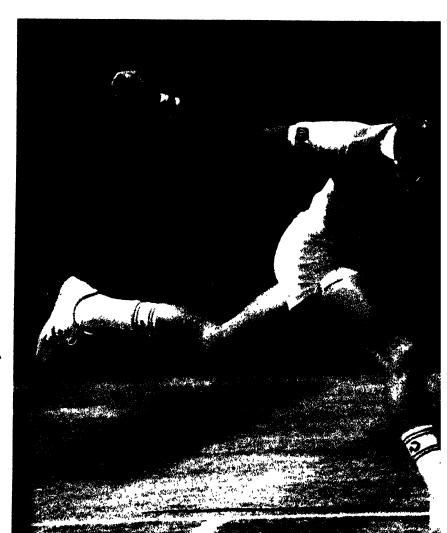
In the mid 80s, he however, had an useful stint with Warwickshire but a back injury restricted his opportunities as a bowler.

With a successful run in international cricket in the last few years McMillan's certainly at the top of the charts and promises to be out there to build Western Province into a formidable squad, and render his services to the cause of South African cricket "for another 4-5 years, may be," as he put it.

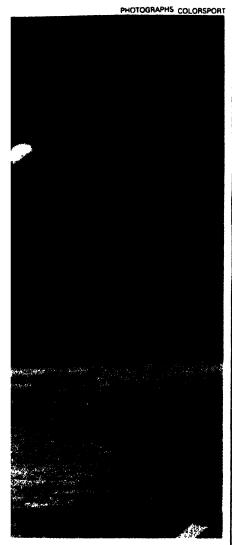
But till the day he decides to finally call it quits, Brian McMillan will be regarded and respected as one of the best all-rounders cricket has seen.



Tennis has always been characterised by great personalities who thrilled spectators with their on-court showboating, antics and comedy







Those wits, that think they have thee, do very oft prove fools; and I, that I am sure I lack thee, may pass for a wise man: 'Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.'

have we seen leading tennis players, other than the ageless and still-competing Connors, who pushed the envelope and branched into unexplored territory of on-court showboating, antics and comedy, and called it entertainment. Connors, naughty Nastase, dashing Adriano Panatta, roguish Ion Tiriac, playboy Vitas Gerulaitis, dynamic Billie Jean

The outspoken Martina Navratilova was a colourful personality of the women's tour

Jimmy Connors thrilled audiences with his humour, his antics and his brilliant tennis

King, outspoken Navratilova and all-American girl Evert were all compelling personalities with a sincere desire to please an audience.

Jimbo's humour—vulgar in his early years— was not to everyone's taste, but the ride was lively, surprising and fun. Many of the stars of the '70s "played" their matches with a joyful playfulness. You really didn't know where the boundaries were, but you knew it would be wild and crazy.

Of that time, Connors recalled: "We walked a thin line, but what we did was to show people we were alive and that craziness and real feelings existed in the game. Those first five or six years of my career, I had a ball." Admiring the crowd-pleasing personalities like Connors, who preceded him, Becker said "We had our different characters, we had drama, the court was like a stage."

What was it that made these characters so mysterious, so attractive as stars? If the real gauge of Hollywood status is fame—not money, not power and certainly not talent—then what's the real gauge of status in tennis? What's the point of discussing them anyway? Well, there are several points.

Like little Michael Chang. He's got that something, that crazy Ernest Hemingway penchant for going after the big fish.

Like Ion Tiriac, who brought to tennis a sinister film noir atmosphere on and off the court. Tiriac, who hails from the same region as *Dracula*, once said of McEnroe, "Half come to see him win. Half come to see him lose. Half come to see what happens." Great sound bites call for great players.

Like Evert, the original Princess Di of sports, the gal with moxie, the heroine at 16, the young Joan of Arc of tennis who smacked tennis balls for God and Country. (And then showed she wasn't just" Prissie Chrissie" by romancing actor Burt Reynolds,

President Gerald Ford's son Jack, and TV talk show host Geraldo Rivera whose kiss-and-tell book revealed the juicy details.)

Like Gabriela Sabatini. Not since Scarlett O'Hara sashayed down the staircase to bewitch the lads of the South has the world seen the likes of this goddess-cum-tennis player Gabriela Sabatini, who reminds us of the ingenue of a '30s movie or perhaps Audrey Hepburn from Roman Holiday. With a natural rapport with the camera and legs better than Dietrich, gorgeous Gabriela is the right age for stardom. She ought to be in pictures anyway.

Like Renee Richards, the first (and only) transsexual player in pro tennis. Hollywood liked her story so much, they made a movie about her, cleverly titled *The Renee Richards Story*.

Which brings us to another point. Other than Alfred Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train, there aren't any good tennis movies out there. Why not a revisit of the good old days of the romantic 1920s, or the antic 1950s and '60s and the camaraderie, hijinks and rivalries that Gordon Forbes wrote about in his hilarious classic. A Handful of Summers? After all. rivalries never die, they continue to live on long after the players leave the court. Like the competition between the former ballerina characters of Shirley MacLaine and Anne Bancroft in The Turning Point.

Just imagine a great tennis movie (we said just imagine) along the lines of A League of Their Own, and we'll call it A Rage of My Own. It'll star Drew Barrymore as the reckless teen queen on the verge of burnout, with Susan Sarandon as the aging legend wandering around the court doing flashbacks to the '60s. Rosie Perez can co-star as Rosie Casals. For those fans who are hyper-sensitive to noise, Monica Seles can impersonate the Dolby-Surround Sound.

By Paul Fein and Fara Bethany
Next Issue: The Stage & The
Curtain Call

GOING GA GA OVER 'GOGGA'

PAUL ADAMS, nicknamed 'Gogga', is one of the more colourful personalities in the South African team. A mere teenager, he has shown tremendous promise and without realising it, has become a star in the process



BY RICA ROY

NTER a fabulous freak—the diminutive, teenage coloured from Cape Town who practises the ancient and often neglected art of left arm wrist spin; he has an action that the Poms refer to as a 'frog in a blender'. For Paul Adams, life was never to be the same again since that fateful morning of November 10th, 1995. Whisked, to his own astonishment and the undisguised scepticism of others into the South African A team, he waited till the evening of that day to play and then, as if it was preordained, took a wicket with his second ball.

The visiting Englishmen were totally baffled and their pride was punctured because they fell foul to the mysterious spin purveyed by a teenager, playing in only his third first-class match. "It was a fantastic experience," recalled Adams, "The four wickets in the first innings were followed by another five to take the final tally to nine. It was that performance that brought me into national reckoning."

Having burst into the cricket scene during the series against England, the media attention was quite unimaginable for a boy, just 18, who was brought out into the big world from a small fishing hamlet in the

The action that baffles most batsmen. Adams posseses the most intriguing bowling action in cricket today



humbler parts of Cape Town. "Till that Kimberley game, I was an alien. But after that match-winning effort, there was a big overnight transformation for me, thanks largely to the media. I was told by the English media that they were fascinated by my bowling action and that they were even probing into my coloured orgins."

Cricket was certainly responsible for widening the horizons for a youth who till then had a small-time job in his brother's television repair shop. These days, with his collar turned up and with a watch on his wrist, Adams looks every bit a cricketer...and a successful one at that. His bizarre action stupefied even the Indians, who are so used to playing spin;

Off the field, Adams enjoys the good life . In fact, he has adjusted well to the high life from modest beginnings

Adams, not surprisingly, had a haul of 6 for 55 in the first innings of the final Test in Kanpur.

Paul Adams is certainly a throwback in today's system. Forty years ago, or so, legspin bowlers were plentiful, even the left-arm variety. Changes in pitches and a shift in the pace and philosophy of cricket has been seen as the reasons for this tribe of cricketers to become almost extinct. But Adams does not fit into the stereotype of a spinner. He bowls left-arm, his stock ball is the googly that spins away from the right-hander after pitching, rather than the

Chinaman, which spins into the batsman. He also has a well-disguised quicker ball that has all the elements of a top-spinner.

After an initial selection imbroglio, Adams has settled fairly well in the team. "I've had tremendous help in the form of encouragement from the captain and the selectors as well. They have kept faith in me even though I was inexperienced." In fact, there is a visible embarrassment on the young man's face when I draw his attention to the fact that he is the only coloured in an all-white team dominated by Afrikaneers.

When probed on the issue, Adams replied, "I was lucky enough to come to this level so early. The game is developing in the black townships as well. It's no longer the previous rule any more. We get to play a fair amount of cricket, but still, my case has been exceptional as I had only played my third first class match in my infant career when the big break came."

Elaborating on the controversy that followed his selection the spinner said, "Dr.(Ali) Bacher took the unusual step of making a statement to include me in the squad for the first Test against England at Centurion. But when the team was finally announced, Mr.(Peter)Pollock declined to include me and stuck to the original choice of Clive Eksteen. After that, there was a nationwide suggestion from the spin pundits for my trial. The call finally came for the

fourth Test at Port Elizabeth."

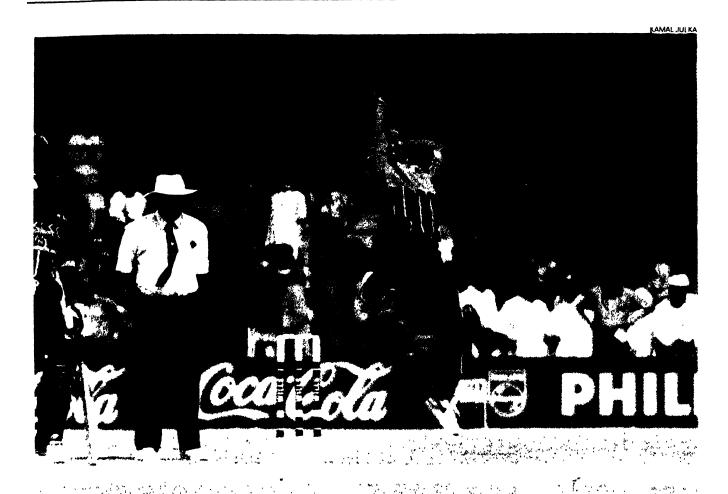
Four wickets on debut and eight in the series was the kid's contribution. On the field, Adams looked a funny little figure, running around with busy legs and always with a sense of gravity. His profile—generally low key—posed a difficulty to his peers and at times even they could not analyse this freak.

Coming from a not-so-rich background, he did have problems adjusting to fame and celebrityhood. But he gives his captain and the senior pros a lot of credit for giving him the guidance to succeed in the professional arena. "I was never neglected. I've had my chances and tried to utilise the breaks. I would have loved to bowl more during the

previous campaign in India, but then again he (Cronje) has used me when required. I've been nourished and boosted as much as any teenager would have expected," reasoned Adams.

Discovered quite casually like a diamond in the river bed, all credit should be given to Eddie Barlow who spotted Adams when he was playing for St. Augustine's, the same club that spawned the legendary Basil D'Oliveria. It was from here that he was subsequently promoted to international cricket. All this was possible because the South Africans promote their sport very positively. Which is why they are very apprehensive about Adams trying the English county circuit. The South





Friel Administrative of the period lab was spin to the property of the propert

African coach Bob Woolmer said, "I don't think we'd ever stop Paul or anybody else, so young, who wants to play county cricket but we are very conscious of the heavy physical demands involved there."

Woolmer went on to elaborate, "You are playing virtually non-stop for more than five months in England. With so much international cricket these days, it's important to protect our best talents from too much exposure. Paul Adams certainly falls into that category."

Adams' contorted style of delivery has made him a big hit in England; this is the reason why he is an obvious candidate for counties seeking a srowd puller. Adams however insists that he is out of bounds, "at least for a couple of years." Adams' English campaign with the South Africa A side this summer has helped him gain some experience about the wickets and the weather conditions there. Someone as enthusiastic as him will obviously be ready to move into the county scene in 1999, only if the chill of England's summer has not proved a deterrent.

He however insists that coming to India for the Test series has helped him a lot. He said, "This has been important in broadening in my experience. I've learnt a lot and feel I've got too much to learn right now. This Test tour has been rewarding for me in many ways."

The successes of this multiracial

South African team speaks volumes of Hansie Cronje's leadership. His substantial contribution has served creditably towards the development of young Adams. Adams is affectionately nicknamed "Gogga" by his teammates. A Gogga in Western Province is a particularly irritating, but totally harmless beetle, and according to some he has been well named.

Adams' mentors want him to change his action but at this stage it is already physically impossible. His appearance in Test cricket has been a big shot in the arm for purveyors of unorthodox left arm spin. All that he needs at this juncture is just a chance from the cricketing world to let him mature with grace.



CLASSIC CUP 1996

SENSATIONAL SCAM!

The Tollygunge Club in Calcutta was abuzz with the largest amateur golf tournament in India. Team SCAM won the title

HE Classic Cup, which is the largest amateur golf tournament in India, was staged at the Tollygunge Club. The popular meet had a tremendous response with 125 teams contending for the coveted title.

A total of 500 players, with four in each team, who were again subdivided into four divisions, played two rounds of golf over eight days. The Amateurs Classic Cup Tournament experienced a mingling of people from different parts of the country. Like the previous years, quite a large number of foreigners made an 'annual pilgrimage' to the Tolly Club, adding an international flavour to the event.

The team 'Scam' comprising of members R.S. Sabharwal, J.Chitlangia, Madan Singh and Ashit Luthra made a successful attempt when they annexed the 1996 Ameteurs Classic Cup. Skipper Madan Singh put up a brilliant performance of two-under on the final day that enabled his team to win; they secured an uncontested total of 418. With a marginal difference of one shot, the team 'CB, I and II' secured the runners-up trophy.

Recently, the Tolly Club greens had undergone new landscaping and recontouring on the 13th and 15th holes; this provided a challenging game to the participants. The golf crazy fans were treated to a feast of good golfing by players with low handicaps.

The tournament got off to a rousing start with a total of 150 golfers teeing off on the first day. The best card of the day was returned by Sanjeev Kapoor with a tiett score of 64 while Mrs Kavita Ajmera brought in the best nett of 66 in the ladies section.

The star performer of the event was Rajat Mathur, who brilliantly fired a hole-in-one at the second hole on the second day. The best nett prize of the day was bagged by S.K. Mehra who carded a 6-under par.

The third day saw the presence of a star among the participants—it was come other than the cricket luminary Kapil Dev Carding an impressive

aggregate score of 139 in his two rounds over two days, Kapil Dev has definitely lived up to his reputation as an all-rounder. Vinay Bahuguna fired a smooth 7-under par, to rank at the day's top with a nett score of 63. Chandan Basu, son of Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, played a consistently good game and returned an aggregate score of 1-under in his two rounds.

A record of 190 people teed off on the 4th day. H.S. Bindra set ablaze the greens of Tolly Club, with a sensational nett score of 61 including a birdie on the 14th hole. That particular day brought into focus the top contending teams; there was stiff competition throughout. 'Mission Impossible II' dominated the field for two days in a row. With a trump card of 3-under par in a score of 207, the team treated the spectators to a game par excellence. A marginal difference of 1 shot put 'CB, I and II' in the second position with 'Scam' occupying the third plot.

Excitement at the venue reached its climax on the 6th day; each and every golfer'tried to put up his or her own best performance. The tournament was at an exciting stage with the top 10 teams within 4 strokes of each other. The top four teams, 'Mission

An avid golfer, Kapil Dev flew down to add flavour to the biggest amateur tournament at the Tolly course where he played excellent golf



Impossible II', 'Beam', 'CB I & II' and 'Happy Hookers' played a tight game giving tough competition to each other. The most impressive best nett score was brought in by Mrs Sheena Rawla, who not only headed the ladies section but also returned the best nett score of the day with a 8-under par.

A very exciting finish to the amateurs tournament was now predictably on the card. The penultimate day, brought 'CB I & II' into the reckoning with an aggregate score of 420. 'Scam' and 'Tigers In The Woods' were trailing behind the leaders. 'Mission Impossible II' unfortunately ran into a spot of bad luck and was hence placed at the 4th position.

Mrs Sheena Rawla, who has been the epitome of constancy in this tournament, won the Tolly Club Cup Trophy. Playing excellent golf with a touch of elegance, Mrs Rawla returned an aggregate nett score of 121, and became the champion. In the men's section, the best nett overall prize was bagged by H.S. Bindra who had an impressive score of 130. In the ladies section, the best nett overall score, after a close scrutiny, was allotted to Kavita Ajmera who fired 1-under par.

Taking into considertion the separate divisions, the best team of each division was given the Team Event Handicap Medal. The winning team in each division were: 'Tigers In The Woods' with 120; 'Team No.76' with 423; 'Go Getters' with 421 and a Bangladeshi team '(Fore) Playing Foreigners' with 433.

The International Trophy, founded by:Tolly Club for teams other than the host country, was awarded to a Bangladeshi team—'Goulash', who brought in the best nett score of 444.

Classic has been synonymous with the sponsorship of golf for the last three decades. It has promoted excellence in both professional and amateur golf. The golf craze will continue at Calcutta in the form of the Classic tour for professional and amateurs golfers from March 13-16 at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

IN TODAY'S CRICKET... YOU Can't Be Dimensional Player'

Says former Australian captain Allan Border in a candid interview

Allan you went to India recently. What was the experience like especially considering the fact that the Test Trophy was named after you and Sunil Gavaskar?

Yes it was good to catch up with my old friend Sunny, no matter how briefly. He's playing badminton almost daily so he's in good shape. Like myself Sunil regards it as a great honour to have his name perpetuated in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. At the same time, the only thing I could think of in Delhi was how old I must be getting. I turn up to see a game where they have a trophy in my name and two blokes I played with are umpires. I take my hat off to Peter Willey and Venkat. I thought they did a brilliant job in the conditions because so many balls do edge off bat pad and a combination of both on a turning wicket.

There has been much talk in Australia about how Mark Taylor's team was done in by the turning wickets in India. What is your reading of the

circumstances? Is that a good enough excuse for the "best team in the world" going home without a single win?

It is a question of playing your innings according to the circumstances and the pitch of the day. That's what cricket is all about. You can't be a one-dimensional player. You have to be able to play the ball between waist and chin on a fast bouncy wicket as the West Indies are testing us with now. You've also got to learn to play the long tour innings on a difficult, turning track. That is what Test match batting is all about and the Australians just didn't seem to have enough of it in recent times to be in the right mindset for India.

From what I gathered, the actual talking of tactics for the games were spot on —we knew its going to be difficult, we knew the pitches will turn. The need to go that extra half yard for your teammates, the fielders in around the bat, the orchestrated appeals from the Indians, the heat, the frustrations—the bases all seemed to be covered. Unfortunately, while the

talk was right, it really didn't sink in because no one really got in there and

But I say as long as lessons have been learnt from it there can be benefits.

It seems the Australian team doesn't have anyone who,can really play a long innings like you David Boon used to?

I'll tell you this that Australia's disappointing loss in Delhi won't be the last occasion when an ugly five-hour Test century or a typical David Boon innings would be seen as a blessing. In fact, watching Australia go done in Delhi, my mind did wander to all those years when 'Boonie' was simply the rock. For the first time in a decade, he was'nt there to waddle to the crease, chew thoughtfully on his gum and ponder what the moment called for. He was such a hard and gritty Test player that without him there is a little more suggestion of fragility in the Australian batting.

Steve Waugh is being talked about

Shane Warne: epart from his contributions, h is also an intense team man

in Australia as the best Test batsman today. What is your opinion?

I'll tell you this much, Steve Waugh and the way he goes about his work should be the example to all the younger bats in world cricket. He has taken up the mantle of reliability and solidity. Steve has settled on a very determined path in recent years. He is in a pattern of gritty determination and he's shelved a lot of his more risky shots. In particular, I hope all younger batsmen have their eyes on him to anderstand what it takes to survive.

Apart from determined batting what are the other ingredients for a winning team?

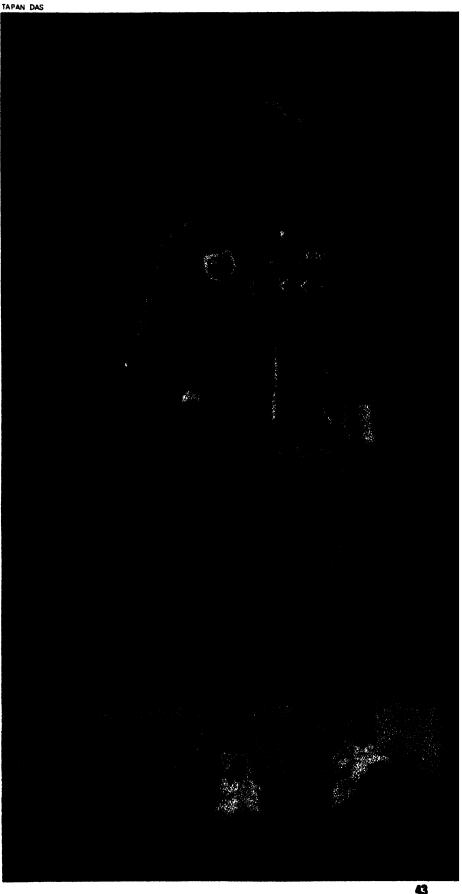
Well, as much as big partnerships are the making of winning totals, bowlers working well in tandem are crucial when a team is in the field. It's true what they say. You don't know what you've got until it's gone. Which was the case with Shane Warne and Craig McDermott missing the India trip. They bowl tremendously well as a partnership. You get at least 45 minutes to an hour of concerted pressure and invariably that results in wickets. India have the same with Srinath and Kumble and that's why they are now more successful.

In Test matches, you normally build up pressure over four or five overs. If you give up a couple of singles or a boundary about every over, as happened to the Australians in Delhi, that pressure is released.

So that banner in Delhi was true. "Without Shane, there is no fame"?

No, even Craig McDermott will be missed a lot....more than some people

Apart from his obvious contributions. Shane is just so good to have around....he's a little bit like Merv Hughes —but not so boisterous, of course. Around the dressing room and the practice session, he is so "up" all the time, so positive, so supportive



of everybody else doing well. When I was captain I would use him early in the innings to look for a wicket...or in the middle to dry up the scoring. And at the end when the slog was on, he would always control the situation. With Warne on your side, there is a comfortable feeling.

But these days the slog overs seem to be in the first 15 overs. How do captains react to that?

Years ago, you will remember, the Poms swung Ian Botham in as opener to utilise his powerful hitting in the first fifteen overs. Sometimes it came off, often it didn't.

Anyone who thinks tossing in Pat Symcox or Jawagal Srinath at No.3, to cause some damage, is a new phenomenon, is hazy on their history. New Zealand tried the pinch hitting ploy years ago with Lance Cairns. In the '80s the Australians tried it from time to time too—with Craig McDermott—notably in the 1987 World Cup final against England at the Eden Gardens. You send in your

big-hitting tailender to inject some momentum. Even if he gets out you can revert to Plan B and get a batsman to the crease to knock the ball around. These tactics aren't new but sides are looking for different plays because the one day game has followed a certain pattern for a long time.

But there have been some great changes?

I am often asked just how much more can the one day game evolve? With Sri Lanka's openers smashing the ball from the word go, use of the pinch hitter and so on, some may believe that the game is suddenly being reinvented at a rapid rate. I say that yes, there have been changes since I played my first one day international back in the late '70s, but they are not as great as some might think.

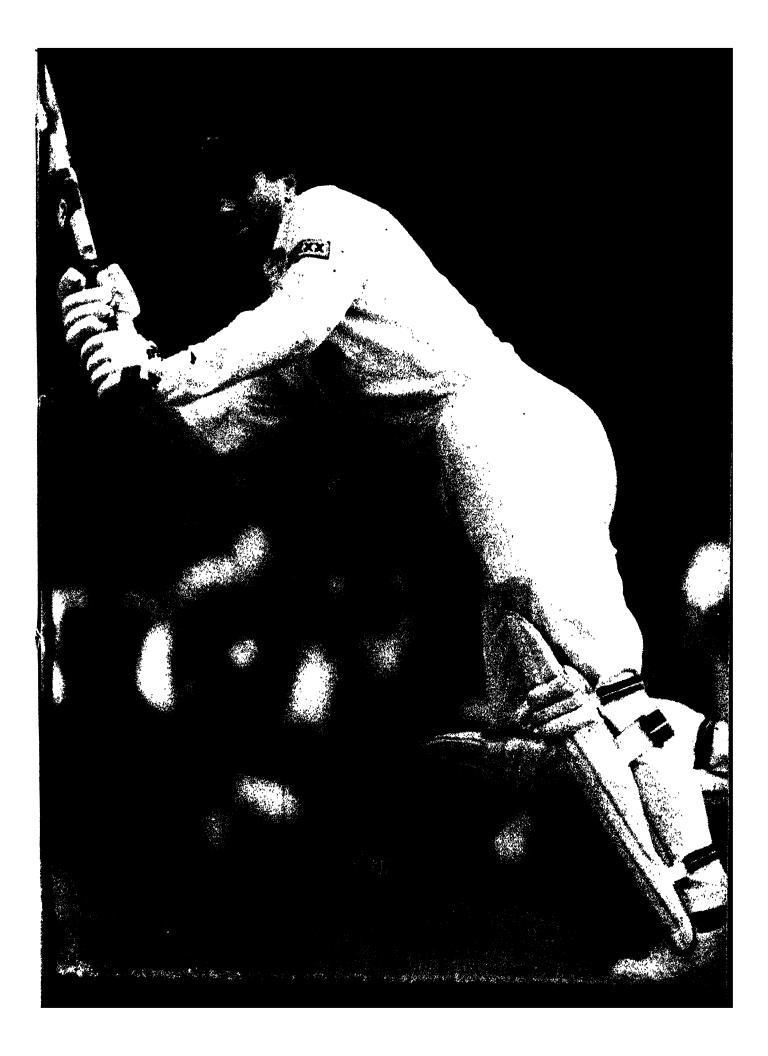
I still believe that the greatest advances have been in fielding, or "defence" as some call it, rather than in batting methods. Ten or 15 years ago, you could expect a couple of butterfinger types around the field. They get found out because you knew there would be an easy single to them every time. These days, running between the wickets has become a hazardous business in one day cricket, simply because those lumbering fielders have largely disappeared. The "ones" which batsmen used to pinch or convert into twos are now made under pressure on many occasions.

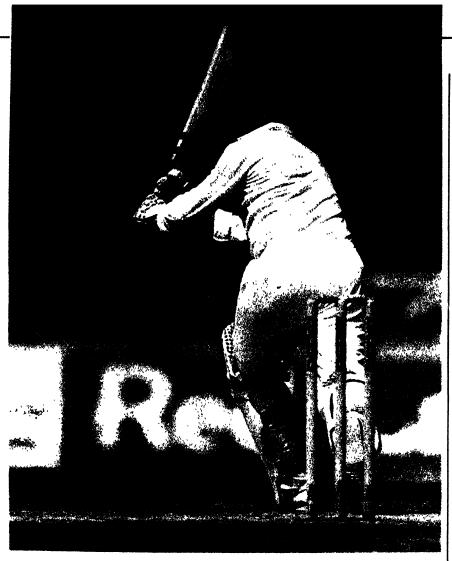
It is the rule now rather than the exception that diving on the field will chop off a good number of balls headed to the boundary. In many ways, it is in fact a reaction to the expertise of the fielding that has made the Sri Lankans take on the bowling and go over the top in the first 15 overs. Taking advantage of those field settings in the first few overs has always been done but the Sri Lankan execution is exceptional.

But the Sri Lankan success has got everybody thinking that there's is the right way to go about getting a

An asset to the Australian team: Craig McDermott bowls extremely well







big total. There seems to be a change in the pattern of the game?

The general pattern in one day cricket has always led to heavy hitting towards the end of the fifty overs. There is nothing to say that this method has suddenly become outdated. With good solid batting, it is not unusual for a side to muster 250-270. I'd just say the Sri Lankan approach is a different approach to getting the same totals. Because, the manner of the Sri Lankan starts, especially in the World Cup, were so spectacular, everyone has been swept away by the idea. Reading between the lines of the press coverage of Australia's tour of India, I believe our guys were giving too much publicity to how well the Sri Lankans were doing things. I think the Australians got caught up trying to play someone else's game.

A lot of teams in fact seemed to be carried away with this "got to go over

David Boon, according to Border, was simply a rock... a hard and gritty Test player

the top" idea in the first 15 overs. I believe all teams have players who can go over the top, but you don't tell them how to play. Just let them play. Sure, you have certain guidelines, but when you put a real emphasis on it rather than just letting the guys play naturally, you're falling into a trap. It's the old mistake of trying to be something you are not.

And how does the man who has played more one day games than anyone else see the future of one day cricket especially with all this talk about horses for courses policies around the world?

In terms of personnel, we will see sides batting deeper than ever before. A side may field 10 or 11 all rounders in the future, so you could go hard from the word go with the bat. Selectors around the world are also targetting players for one day cricket. In future, there might be a little more of the "fly two players in, fly two players home" idea for a one day series which follows a Test series. Playing in rotation will become part and parcel of one day cricket with players becoming a bit more attuned to the situation of being "rested" from matches for their own good. With the amount of cricket being played, the most important thing will be to keep guys fresh both mentally and physically.

So you don't see too much changing really in the near future?

One day cricket has ushered in so many innovations over the years, so there are bound to be developments none of us have thought of yet. What I will guarantee is that players will have fuller passports as the game heads towards 2000 and beyond. The potential of huge TV revenues is pushing the boundaries of what we have considered the traditional territory of cricket, and that will continue.

If one day cricket has become such a pattern what can be done to make it a bit more interesting?

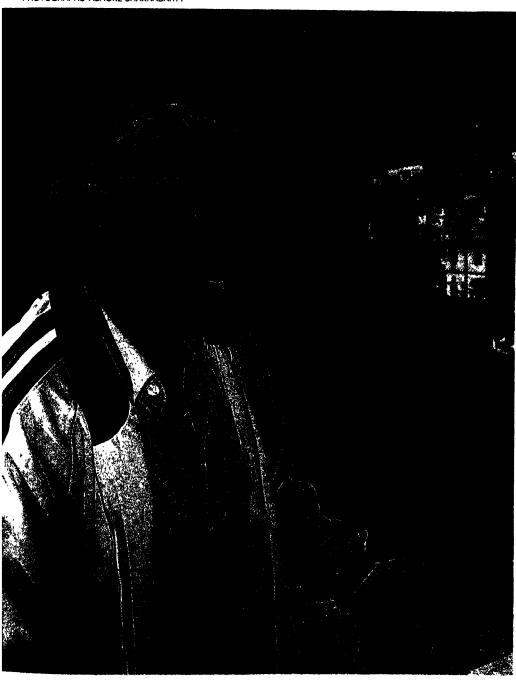
I think the standard format of awarding two points for a win, no points for a loss and one point each in event of a washout —has run its race a little bit. Why not pep up interest with bonus points for reaching certain batting and bowling targets. The side might earn a bonus point for reaching, say, 75 off 15 overs while the bowling team would get a point for three wickets over the same period. As it stands now, a team might bat superbly to reach 250 but get nothing out of it should the opposition score 251. The following day, another side will be bowled out for 99 for the same result. Again there could be consideration for a side amassing 250 or the side bowling out the opposition for 180. I'm much in favour of advocating such changes for the future World Cups.

Andy O'Brien, Perth

SAHOO MEWALALL

This simple and unassuming legendary footballer of yesteryears still shows immense infatuation for the game by visiting the Calcutta maidan even at the ripe age of 70. We are talking about the ever-smiling Sahoo Mewalall. A pictorial tribute

PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY



striker par excellence, Agifted with lethal back volleys which his contemporaries still cherish in their memories even today, Sahoo Mewalall scored a record number of goals (over a 1000) for his team and State during his 16 year career (from 1945 to 58). He also has the distinction of scoring 35 goals including five hat-tricks in the Santosh Trophy; this is still a record.

Like every child, Mewalall too was known as a prankster whom his parents found intolerable. So his father, who migrated with his family from Bihar, in the Thirties sent him to Fort William (the Army headquarters) to avoid any further embarrassment in the neighbourhood. In Fort William, Mewalall came under the wings of a British Sgt. Burnelt of the 9th Border Regiment who moulded him into a fine football player at the junior level. Initially, Mewalall used to play in almost all the positions until he finally found his niche as a brilliant centre forward.

The simple and unassuming Mewalall represented the national

Mewalall pendering over his life on the terrace of his 'Football House'







team from 1945 to 1956. He also played in the London and Helsinki Olympic Games. Besides the two Olympics, he made trips to 14 foreign countries where he played many friendlies and exhibitions. A landmark in his football career was when he scored the match-winner against Iran in the inaugural Asian Games in Delhi in 1951, to give India the gold medal.

Mewalall, who was a Welfare Inspector in the South Eastern Railways, played for Bengal-Nagpur Railways till he hung up his boots in 1958. He bid adieu to the game, which made him an illustrous figure in the country's soccer annals, on August 25 after he sustained a serious leg injury during the inter-railway tournament at Kharagpur.

Mewalall who is associated with several sports bodies, was advised by Denis Compton, the legendary English cricketer cum footballer, in London that he should impart training to the juniors. Which, of course, according to Mewalall "was the goal of his life". And that is still his favourite occupation even at the ripe old age of 70.

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

With his grandchildren who are waiting for the school bus

Displaying his laurels while his wife stays in the background

Taking an evening stroll with his grandchildren in the neighbourhood

A very religious person. A visit to the temple is a must

Talking to his neighbours





PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FORTNIGHT



Mad Max? No, it's Goran Ivanisevic sporting a new hair style. Just when Andre Agassi was sobering up, it was Ivanisevic who decided to brighten things up on the circuit. People are no longer talking about his game (which has improved a great deal) or his temperament (which continues to be like Chinaware)...it's those locks that everyone is focussed on

Q READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

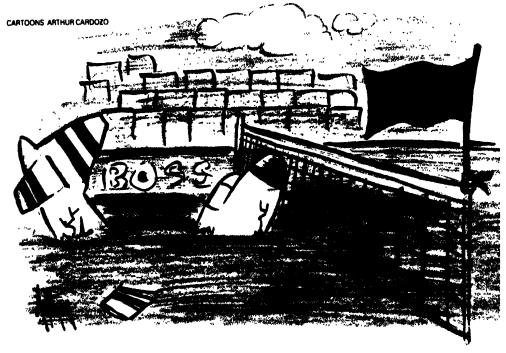
Mike Tyson's first
act of penitence
after being released from
jail was to bow towards
Mecca and embrace the
religion of Islam. What was
his second act?

What when
introduced in
Australia was called the
'pyjama game' because of
the colourful clothes the
players wore on the field?

What distinction
should you possess to
be able to participate in the
Bobby John's Golf Classic?

Answer to Question No.5





Answer to Question No.6

If Michael Holding
was nicknamed
Whispering Death' who
was often referred to as
Whispering Death Part II'?

In tennis what is a 'Jesus Wept'?

The stadium where the French Open is held is called Stade Roland Garros. Who is named after?

If modern day boxing is governed by the Queensbury rules, which game is governed by the Cartwright rules?

Pele in his younger days played with a group of street urchins called 7th September. Why is it specifically called 7th September?

Which game was invented in 1875 by British Army officers stationed at Ootacamund?

A machine called the 'Trolleyman' carried the Olympic flame from the Parthenon restaurant in Glasgow to Stranthclyde University to signal the start of which event?

ANSWERS

1. Tyson served breakfast to Muhammad Ali.

2. The day and night cricket tournament started by Kerry Packer which featured cricketers in coloured clothes playing under lights.

1. Your name should be Bobby Johns.

Lian Bishop.

5. A mini-skirt. This is because 'Jesus Wept' is the shortest verse in the Bible.

8. It is named after a pilot with the same name who crashed there.

7. Baseball.

7th September is Brazil's Independance
 Day.

2 Snooker.

10. It signalled the start of the international robot Olympics.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY

VINAYAK ADKOLI, 405, ASIAD VILLAGE, NEW DELHI PIN—110 049

All answers sent in by contributor. Readers are requested to sent in atleast 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.

18TH CHAMPIONS TROPHY

STANDING SMALL

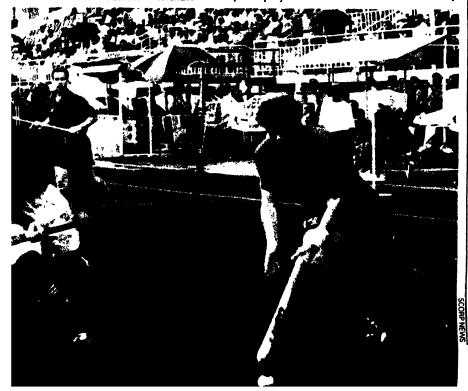
In spite of the perennial excuses: lack of financial incentives, inadequate gear and lack of motivation having been sorted out to a great extent, why is Indian hockey still in the doldrums? An analysis

FROM NOVY KAPADIA, CHENNAL

ISTORY repeats itself an oft-quoted axiom, could be a theme song for Indian hockey in the Nineties. The 18th Champions Trophy, lavishly promoted and sponsored by the Kuber Group of Industries, was projected as an event, which would herald the resurrection of Indian

hockey. Instead, like the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and the 1996 Centennial Games at Atlanta, the Indian hockey team at Chennai flattered to deceive.

On home soil and in front of vociferous supporters, India in their eighth appearance in the Champions Trophy finished a dismal fourth. Only



four teams have won this august tournament so far, Germany and Australia six times each, Holland and Pakistan thrice each. Whenever the Champions Trophy was held on their home soil, these four nations have always done exceptionally well.

Pakistan's three triumphs have all been on home soil (in 1978 and 1994 at Lahore and in 1980 at Karachi). Australia were victorious in 1985 at Perth and 1990 at Melbourne. Holland won in 1982 at Amsterdam and were runners-up in 1987, when the Champions Trophy was held at Amstelveen. Thrice the Champions Trophy had been held in Berlin and Germany were champions in 1991 and 1995 and runners-up in 1989. The question that arises is why has India floundered when the Champions Trophy was held on home soil for the first time ever?

Former national coach Cedric D'Souza, who is now the Executive Director of Coaching, had once claimed that India just needed a little fortune to match the 'Big Four' hockey nations. He felt that in terms of calibre India could match any team in the world. Similar sentiments were expressed by the IHF President, Mr K.P.S. Gill. After India finished a poor eighth at Atlanta, Mr. Gill said that India were "just unlucky" at Atlanta because of a few biased umpiring decisions and missed chances. Otherwise India should have ranked much higher. Such excuses may sound convincing but the recurring question is: why is Indian hockey underachieving in the 1990s?

For many years, it was said that inadequate financial incentives were a deterrent as they failed to motivate the players to achieve the heights of glory. Such anamolies have been rectified but strangely they have not produced the desired results on the field. For the 1992 Olympics, the Indian team captained by Pargat Singh was offered a handsome amount of Rs. 10 lakhs for winning the gold medal and certain reduced sums

Usman Muhammad intercepting Man of the Final , De Nooijer Tenn in the final



The winners for the third time: Holland who are also the 1996 Olympic champions

for any other medal. However the side flopped, finishing a disastrous seventh.

For the Atlanta Olympics, the Indian team was kitted by both Nike and Reebok. So the perennial excuses of inadequate kit held no water. Sponsors Kuber went a step further by offering generous financial inducements for the 18th Champions Trophy. The Indian team was given Rs.51,000 for each match they won. Mr P.K. Sharma, the chairman of the Kuber Group, was so elated at the comeback 3-1 win over Australia in the league phase that he paid the team Rs. I lakh. And for winning the tournament, the Indian squad was promised Rs. 15 lakhs. Yet India's performances still remained mystifying and bafflingly inconsistent. Is Indian hockey now running out of excuses?

At Chennai, India played six matches (five in the league and the

third place play-off) winning two, drawing one and losing three. India scored ten and conceded 12 goals. India forced 28 penalty corners but managed to score just thrice. Seen in the right perspective, India's performance is not a cause of unbridled joy. All the five opponents used the Kuber Champions Trophy to experiment with new-look outfits.

Spain which astounded the hockey world by winning the silver medal at the Atlanta Olympics, were without five of their regulars, goalkeeper Juffresa, Malgosa, Garcia, Escude and Cobos. Olympic champions Holland brought with them only eight of the players who won the gold medal at Atlanta. They were without stalwarts like penalty corners specialists Floris Bovelander and Taco Van den Hornet and able midfielder Marc Delissen. Pakistan dropped seasoned forwards Shabaz Ahmed, Tahir Zaman and Mohammed Shahbaz and included six junior internationals in their

squad. Germany missed penalty corner specialist Carsten Fischer, midfielders Sven Meinhardt and Salinger, promising forward Oliver Dumke besides several other stalwarts. Australia under new coach Barry Dancer brought a revamped side with just three Olympians (skipper Jay Stacey, centre-half Paul Guicon and striker Baedon Choppy) in their squad of 16 players.

Of course why such famous hockey-playing nations chose a premier tournament like the Champions Trophy to experiment, is difficult to fathom? But considering the nature of the opposition, India should have fared much better after fielding a full strength side. Only Brojen Singh, who remained as a substitute, for most of the tournament was blooded. Despite such obvious advantages, India's only convincing win was against Spain. Even the new-look Australia led 1-0 till half-time and only a ten minute burst

WORDS OF WISDOM

The Pakistan captain Mansoor Ahmed says that India should stick to the Asian style of hockey

why Pakistan is more consistent than India in international hockey. A higher level of motivation, greater commitment, better financial rewards, astute handling of the players by the Pakistan Hockey Federation and better organisation were cited by several former Olympians as the reasons for Pakistan's greater success rate in the international arena.

However, Pakistan's experienced skipper Mansoor Ahmed hit the nail on the head when he categorically said: "Indian hockey has fallen between two stools, caught between the European and Asian style. There is too much chopping and changing of styles in the Indian team by different coaches. The team obviously gets confused a lot. India should choose either the European style or the Asian style. I feel that as the Indian players' physical condition and strength are similar

to ours, they should stick to the Asian style of play as we have done."

Former skipper and speedy winger Islahuddin also echoed Mansoor's thoughts. Islah as he is popularly called, was in Chennai as a radio commentator, said: "The 2-3-5 formation is not just based on attack. Inside forwards must drop deep to help in the midfield. We relied on the work rate of our inside forwards Rahim Khan and Mohammed Anis to develop rhythm in the attack. India played with too few forwards, just three forwards cannot get you goals. Often I noticed that there was no Indian forward to convert firm crosses from the flanks."

By the Asian style, custodian Mansoor meant two defenders, three midfielders and five forwards. Pakistan was the only country in the Kuber Champions Trophy to play in this formation. All the other countries adopted different formations. India used a 2-4-4 formation, with Rahul Singh

and Mohammed Riaz interchanging as attacking and defensive centre halves. Dhanraj Pillay was the sole striker. Inside left Sanjeev Kumar frequently fell back to assist the midfield. Often India went into the attack with only three players, Pillay, Gavin Pereira (the most consistent Indian player at Chennai) and off-form Mukesh Kumar or Edward Aranha.

Australia also used a similar formation with colourfully attired caps. James Elemer playing as a deep lying roving schemer. Jason Manos and Paul Gaudoin were the defensive midfielders. The European sides, ultimate winners Holland, third placed Germany and Spain played in the customary 1-3-3-3 formation. Holland showed greater versatality. No longer are they a team relying only on penalty corner conversions.

Coach Roeland Oltmans is to be complimented for developing the ability among his players to pass and run into gaps and be able to retain possession by using the width of the field. The main reasons for their success were better bail circulation, sudden break into attack and frequent inter-changing of positions. The hockey intelligence they displayed was far superior to any other nation.

India was also criticised for relying too long on ageing players. Pakistan's coach Dr Tariq Aziz, a 1968 Olympian said: "We may not have won the Champions Trophy but we have gained by blooding six junior internationals in a major tournament," Pakistan's young left winger Baber Abdullah and left half Waseem Ahmed certainly impressed with their temperament and skills.

Novy Kapadia





in the second half enabled India to win 3-1.

Former Olympian Gurbux Singh, now a TV commentator, summed up the situation when he said: "If all the countries were at full strength, we would have definitely struggled to win even a single game. It shows that India is not amongst the best hockey-playing nations of the world anymore. It's sad."

On the last day of the round robin league matches, India was poised to enter the final. Both India and Pakistan had seven points each from four matches and the winner of the match would contest the final against Holland. However India fumbled, took time to gain any rhythm, missed chances and lost 2-3. However, everything was not lost for India who had a chance for a bronze medal. Remember India has won the bronze medal just once before in the 1982 Champions Trophy at Amsterdam.

Otherwise India had finished fourth in 1983, fifth in 1980, 1986 and 1995 and sixth in 1985 and 1989.

Strangely for this crucial match, coach Vasudev Bhaskaran failed to motivate his players. Instead of signing off on a high note India succumbed to one of their worst-ever defeats, 0-5. India's largest defeat in the Champions' Trophy had been 1-7 by Pakistan in 1980 at Karachi. A crest fallen Bhaskaran lamented about the lack of individual motivation for the bronze medal match. Commenting on India's defeat, the German coach Paul Lissek said: "I wonder how India could lose heart so badly, considering third place is a recognised place (worth a medal) in hockey."

Inside information reveals that India lost heart for this crucial match due to certain off-field imbroglios. It is said that on the rest day, prior to the final, India's skipper Pargat Singh and some senior members approached the

Dhenraj Pilley initiating a move against Pakistan in the crucial match which India lost

IHF president with a request for rationalising payment. Instead of the promised rewards, for tournaments which India never wins, Pargat and his team-mates wanted a sum of Rs. 500 for each international. The demand was quite reasonable. The players knew the IHF was flush with funds. The Kuber Group had given the federation a princely sum of Rs.2.2 crores. The players wanted their share of the booty also. Strangely the IHF office-bearers remained adamant. The players sulked and the end result was a humiliating defeat before home supporters in a match for the bronze medal.

Surely, the IHF which got Rs.5 lakh as royalty per match and an overall sum of Rs.1.3 crores from Doordarshan, could have been more generous to the players. Also such a



Australian Duff Darren (yellow) makes a last minute effort to score against Spain, the Atlanta Olympics runners-up

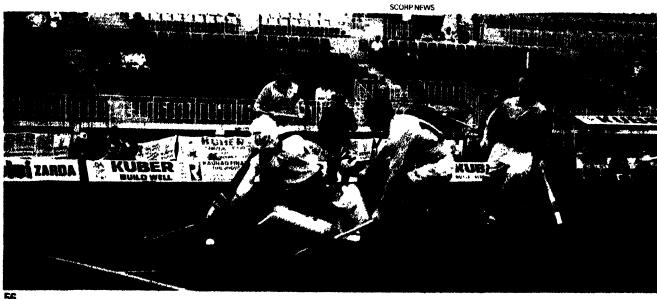
contentious situation should have been handled more tactfully. Negotiations with the players could have continued till after the tournament. The IHF must also realise that in these days of

conspicuous consumerism, money and not just national pride is the greatest motivator. The IHF should also tread warily on this sensitive issue. If the players remain dissatisfied there may be many more cases like Jude Felix, who opted for a

The Dutch players crowd the Spanish citadel in the league round

professional career with a foreign club (Jude is coach-cum-player of a Singapore club). An exodus of talent will not help Indian hockey, to say the least.

To add salt to the wound, mercurial centre-forward Dhanraj Pillay did an "Eric Cantona" after the 0-5 drubbing by Germany. He jumped the fence and





attacked some frustrated spectators who according to Pillay, "kept abusing me and my family." Despite seven years of international experience he made his debut in the 1989 Asia Cup at the Shivaji Stadium, Delhi) Pillay could not cope with the twin imposters of adulation and humiliation.

Later commenting on the bizarre incident, the maverick hockey superstar said: "I am sorry about what happened. But the way in which the man kept abusing my family, made me angry. I have been abused before. But I treated it as part of the game, since the spectator's love and adulation outweighed hatred." Pillay admitted he succumbed to mental pressure and the trauma of losing to Pakistan and being humiliated by Germany. Unlike Cantona, the long-haired Pillay may escape stringent punishment and may only be censured by the IHF and FIH. However it is a bad image for Indian hockey for as skipper Pargat Singh said in his column: "A player has got

to take the cheers and jeers."

So instead of being the great hurrah, the Kuber Champions Trophy proved to be yet another false dawn for Indian hockey. At the end of the tournament, Indian hockey was in its familiar position of shambles, confusion and chaos. The scenario was similar to the 1992 and 96 Games After the Barcelona debacle, four players, skipper Pargat Singh, centre-half Sukhbir Singh Gill, defender Jagdev Singh and centre-forward Jagbir Singh were suspended. Several other players were censured. Pargat and Pillay have since made a comeback, but the others have faded away. The disaster at the Atlanta Olympics, did not take such a heavy toll but national coach Cedric D'Souza resigned. Similar confusion reigns after the Champions Trophy.

Vasudev Bhaskaran said at a press briefing: "I want to coach the juniors. They are the future of Indian hockey. Let me shape them up for the Junior World Cup final round at Milton Keynes, England in 1997." In many

The 'top guns of the world hockey body pose for a photograph at Chennei

words, Bhaskaran implied that he did not want to continue with the senior team. So India is once again without a national coach?

Then who are the possible successors? The names of 1988 Olympic captain, M.M. Somaiyya, former women's national coach and ex-Olympian M.K. Kaushik were mentioned and there were hints that even Cedric D'Souza might be recalled. Another name suggested was that of current skipper Pargat Singh, expected to finally announce his retirement from international hockey. A section of the IHF feels it is imperative to get a foreign coach, as Indian coaches have been unsuccessful so far. Is time running out for Indian hockey? Who is to blame for the successive debacles, sub-standard coaching, mediocre players, faulty selection or poor management by the IHF itself? The answer my friend is blowing in the wind.

THE FINAL WHISTLE!

Indian hockey captain, Pargat Singh may have played his last tournament.

NOVY KAPADIA gives the reasons

S it the end of the road for the stormy petrel of Indian hockey?

Like a mighty colossus, Pargat Singh bestrode the world of Indian hockey for over a decade. Now it seems the 18th Kuber Champions Trophy will be his last hurrah. Rumours were rife at Chennai, that Pargat will announce his retirement after the third placed match with Germany. However, India's abysmal performance (a 0-5 rout) and the Dhanraj Pillay

fracas with some spectators, led to the postponement of the formal announcement, as Pargat realised that media coverage following his announcement would get diffused.

The formal announcement is expected early next year in the capital. However, the cynics feel that Pargat may do a Maradona, threaten retirement but not actually retire. It may be recalled that on 12th October, 1992, Pargat announced his retirement at his mansion in village Mithapur on the outskirts of Jalandhar. The



occasion was the Federation Cup at Jalandhar and the national press was invited to a special dinner where Pargat bade adieu to international hockey.

At that 'Last Supper' Pargat said, "there is no scope of my reversing the decision to quit the international arena. I feel I have played enough international hockey." But it was not really sayonara. Many critics felt that Pargat's dramatic retirement when still in his twenties, was to pre-empt personal catastrophe. The announcement came a day before the executive committee of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) met in Delhi to deliberate the recommendations of the special four-member enquiry committee into what was termed as the "Barcelona Olympics debacle." It is felt that Pargat anticipating the IHF move to ban him for misconduct during the pre-Olympic camp and at Barcelona, took the step to salvage some market value and prestige

For three years Pargat remained in the international wilderness. Successive national coaches Zafar Igbal and Cedric D'Souza ignored his claims. He remained fit playing as a professional in the Malaysian league and for his employers Punjab Police. Pargat re-surfaced in the national side during the tour to Malaysia by the India 'A' side in August 1995. Success in the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament at Kuala Lumpur in November 1995 ensured Pargat's return to the national side for the pre-Olympic tournament at Barcelona in January 1996. After that, he captained in all tournaments including the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

At the recent Kuber Champions Trophy, Pargat epitomised the hallmarks of a great defender; brilliant anticipation, superb timing in tackles, confidence in receiving and distributing the ball and accurate passing. So the ZAFAR ALIKHAN

question arises that why should Pargat now be thinking of retirement when he was still the best Indian defender on view? In fact, the ESPN commentators reiterated that Pargat was in the reckoning for the man of the tournament award. The ESPN's expert commentator, former national coach Cedric D'Souza categorically said, "either Pargat or Ashish Ballal would be the right choice for the player of the tournament award."

So is Pargat's impending retirement yet another red herring? Or is it curtains for one of India's finest defenders in recent times? There are several factors. however, which indicate that this time Pargat could finally call it a day. At Chennai he confessed, "I have business interests which I would like to explore and also I have achieved everything I wanted to in hockey. I feel it is time to go now." Pargat has several ambitious business ventures. He intends to be a sporting entrepreneur, inviting star players like Shahbaz Ahmed and Floris Bovelander for clinics. He also intends to promote a National League for seniors, juniors and sub-juniors. Pargat hopes to tie up with Nike for his business ventures.

On the field his achievement are mind boggling. He is the only Indian to have captained the team in successive Olympics, 1992 at Barcelona and 1996 at Atlanta. He is the only player to have been captain of India in all major tournaments, Olympics, World Cup, Asian Games, Champions Trophy and Asia Cup. Also Pargat is the only Indian to have played over 300 internationals. Overall he has played 313 internationals and has scored about 50 goals for the country. Pargat's name has been recommended for the Padma Shree by several ministers of the Punjab Government. Through his in-laws he is close to the Congress Government in Punjab. The



Parget Singh argues with Dutch coach Rooland Olimens after Indie's match agains Holland in the Champions Trouby

recommendation for the award has been routed via the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

As an attacking defender Pargat had few peers in international hockey. Yet on the personal front, Pargat continues to have his regrets. Explaining these he says, "My biggest regret is that as captain I wanted India to win a major tournament and I am sad that this could not be achieved." He recalls the exhilarating 5-2 win over Pakistan in the SAF Games final at the Mayor Radhakrishnan stadium, Madras in December 1995 as one of the highlights of his career. He says, "the win helped many of our players overcome the jinx and mental pressure of playing Pakistan and to break the bogey of Pakistan's invincibility."

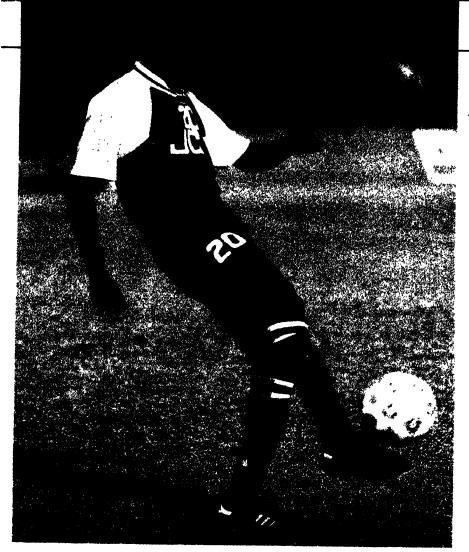
In the SAF Games triumph over Pakistan Pargat's stunning performance received rave reviews from even the brilliant Pakistani inside forward Shahbaz Ahmed. Paying Pargat the ultimate compliment, Shahbaz said, "I find Pargat the most difficult defender in the world to get past. He always manages to subdue me."

There is a feeling in hockey circles that somehow Pargat's brilliance has never got the credit it deserves as he was outspoken, candid and almost always anti-establishment. In the 1985

Asia Cup imbroglio when some players attacked a Japanese umpire after the final vs Pakistan, Pargat was in the thick of the action but somehow got scot free. Then again he walked out of the camp for the 1989 Indira Gandhi international hockey tournament, slighted that he was being bypassed for captaincy by another defender M.P. Singh of Indian Airlines.

As captain in successive Olympics he earned the wrath of both N.P. Katare (manager in 1992) and Cedric D'Souza, coach in 1996. In their official reports, extracts of which were published in The Tribune Saturday Plus supplement on 7-12-96, Katare felt, "he was not upto the mark" and Cedric described him as "average to poor." Pargat has always been annoyed by the inconsistency of the IHF officials. He feels that hockey administrators should also be accountable and players should not be blamed for defeats. Pargat's biggest grouse against the IHF was, "after a defeat even small mistakes get magnified."

So a combination of all these factors has prompted the angry young man of Indian hockey to finally call it a day. His sturdy and reliable presence will be sorely missed. The father figure of Indian hockey is now bowing out. The IHF should let bygones be bygones and utilise Pargat's vast experience as either a coach or an administrator.



Stephen Abarowei: "You won't find me dribbling on the wings and playing to the galleries anymore"

of careful honing, after an initial period of sloth.

"Yes, motivation was a problem in my early days," the lethal winger told Sportsworld during the Philips League qualifiers. "By the time I realised it's business. Nigerian football had advanced way forward..."

'The average Nigerian footballer is extremely determined. This coupled with exposure in Europe, soccer's most lucrative continent, is the reason why African soccer in general and Nigeria, in particular, is going places,"this Diego Maradona-admirer who

LOOK WHO'S STALKING!

JCT's Nigerian import, Stephen Abarowei has a fixed diet: he likes to have goalkeepers for breakfast

BY DHIMAN SARKAR

Stephen Abarowei stands out in a crowd. The first is his tall, muscular build. The second is the Nigerian's ability to let his actions speak for him on the football field.

Both are gifts from God (or so he claims). Gifts that have put him on the overdrive in Indian football—one scribe even called him JCT's George Weah after his brace in JCT's Philips League opener—but only after years



began big-time football with the National Bank team in Lagos, said.

Those early days of waywardness and complacency, the striker feels, probably dented his chances of getting a toe-hold in Europe. "It's too late for me now. Nigeria is a name these days and they'd (the European clubs) rather go for someone who is young, is a potential senior national cap than one plying his trade in Asia. "Moreover, I know that my present level of performance won't get me too far there...Nobody wants to be a clown."

But regretting about opportunities lost doesn't get you anywhere and this 27-year-old who divides his time

between playing for FC Champaka, owned by JCT's collaborators, in Malaysia. and the Phagwara millmen realised that soon enough. Maybe a trifle late to join the Amunikes, the Amokachis and the Kanus but Stephen still has time to go some distance as a full-time footballer.

"You won't find me dribbling on the wings and playing to the galleries anymore. Now, I hold on to the ball only when I feel that by doing it the team benefits. Otherwise, I move inside and pass.

"Now when I play against a premier team, three things send the adrenalin working overtime. the first that I am a Nigerian footballer, one who has played for eight years in their professional first division. Secondly since my opponents are on a par talent-wise, only an extra effort will help me get noticed. And last—but certainly not the least—that JCT or Champaka should triumph." He cites winning the best player's award in a match between Champaka and Hungary's Ferencyeros as corroboration.

In just over one year and in seven tournaments, this Julio Iglesias fan has ensured a place of permanence in Indian football. Incidentally, of the

The extremely determined Nigerian player is an admirer of Maradona



tournaments that he has played for the red/green shirts they have won five, including two against Iraqi clubs.

JCT, in fact, were on a roll after Abarowei and his compatriot Musa Aliu beefed up their ranks during the Center Fresh IFA Shield last October. Abarowei, despite coming off a two-week lay-off after the Malaysian league ended, tore through Mohun Bagan's ranks. The Bagan defenders failed to check his long, loping strides down the right flank and his measured crosses. And while making a hash of their efforts to contain the Nigerian, Bagan left I.M.Vijayan (who, Abarowei thinks, is a born

goal-scorer) unmarked. The Keralite scored twice, heading in Abarowei's cross for the first and then converting a freekick, awarded because of a foul on Abarowei, with the finesse only he is capable of.

Mohammedan Sporting were taken care of in the semi-final and JCT were pitted against Iraq's Karkh Club—who put in four against East Bengal and three against Mohun Bagan in their earlier matches—for the title.

Despite a robust game of football, where JCT rallied remarkably to hold the Iraqis—placed fourth in their league—at bay, neither team could break the barren deadlock till the

103rd minute. Then Abarowei struck...

Former Mohun Bagan medio and now the Punjab team's left stoppper Bernard Operanhozie sent a long ba meant for his Nigerian counterpart. Abarowei trapped and in a flash outsped the Karkh defender who witrailing him in a one-to-one situatio "The moment I beat him, I knew I would score." And score he did with neat right-footed placement. It was his only goal in three matches but thone which perhaps mattered most for the golden goal gave JCT their maide IFA Shield title.

Barely two weeks later, it was Irac

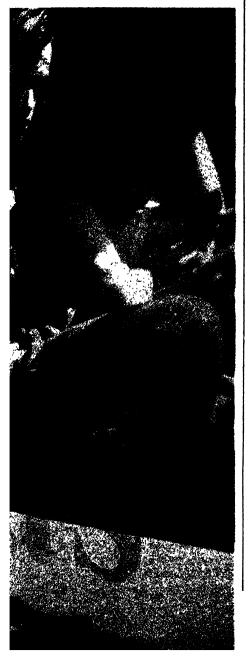


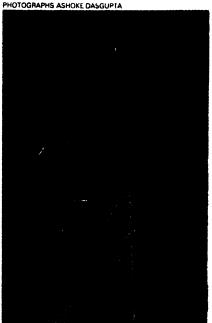
Oil Club's turn to slip on Abarowei's magic. Once again he netted the final's only goal, giving the Phagwara team their fifth Durand Cup title.

"It is true that Musa and I have contributed to JCT's upsurge but that does not mean the team lacks bite without us. How can you say that for a side which has Baichung Bhutia, I.M. Vijayan, Carlton Chapman and Tajinder Kumar, among others, in its ranks," Abarowei, the archetypal teamman opines.

He has a point --- football after all is a

At the Lee showroom in Calcutta; he loves to wear the latest fashions





On Sundays, it is a must for him to go to church

team game—but it must be conceded that prior to his arrival this season coach Sukhwinder Singh's men looked out of sorts in the eight matches, spread over three tounaments. Dempo did JCT in in the Kalyani Cup semi-final and then the Maldives' New Radiant won a quarter-final berth at their expense in a continental tournament.

But just when they seemed set for a triple crown, a feat which East Bengal last achieved in the seventies. JCT tailed to go beyond the group league stage in the Rovers Cup, being grounded by Air-India. "It was not just atrocious refereeing that undid us," Abarowei explained. "The break between the Durand and the Rovers did not give us time to unwind and upset our rhythm at the same time. Moreover, having been away from their families for over one month means that the law of diminishing returns sets in."

But would that mean motivation will be at a premium for JCT in the two-month long Philips League. "No, because here you would be playing only over the week-ends. This means after one match, the boys can go home, regroup and ready themselves for the next," Abarowei feels.

After Chima Okerie and Emeka
Ezuego migrated to Europe
(Abarowei has played with both of
them) Indian clubs didn't have aforeign player who could win a match
on his own. His success further
contrasts Calcutta soccer's
experimentation with imported
players which failed totally. Mohun
Bagan brought and sent back three
Kenyans and three Russians while
East Bengal tried out two Latvians for
a while before realising they were best
left untouched.

"I haven't seem them and so ideally should refrain from commenting. But I think settling down in an alien environment is the most difficult part Moreover, the onus is on you to adapt to the team's game and not vice-versa. I guess, that is where most go wrong.

"I had to find out how I fitted into JCT, realise exactly how I could contribute positively. You must also know how to improvise. For Champaka, I play as an orthodox striker. Here, because they have Baichung and Vijayan, I operate from the right wing."

Asked to comment on Indian football, he said: "It's unfortunate that players here, despite being quite skilful, don't know what an athlete needs. Soccer is a physical game and the body must be geared for it. A lot more exposure too is needed, especially for the young boys from TFA."

His life, he says, is inextricably linked to the game. Daughter Anita was born on July 5, 1994, the day Nigeria went down 1-2 to Italy in the World Cup. Then during the Lifebuoy Federation Cup this year, wife Taiwo gave birth to a son, Joshua.

Not even in his wildest dreams, perhaps, did Abarowel think he would play in India for a living. Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra are the two most popular footballers in India, he once said. But this Nigerian whose build and all-round skill perhaps makes him the most complete footballer in India today has taken it in his stride. The pleasures of goal-scoring, after all, can get one hooked.

FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

IFA was a small business, when in 1974 Joao
Havelange took over as its president in 1974. 22 years later, now, it is a vast multinational, extending its influence into the farthest and remotest corners of the world —first, second and third. Areas where, until recently, many people did not even know what a soccer stadium looked like, or what it meant to have a football coach for the lads in the village bar.

This has happened during the reign of a man who "gets up at six in Rio, works all day at various companies, gets back home, has a bath, picks up a suitcase, goes to the airport; does not sleep on the plane—that is the time for working and reading, catching up on the latest developments in science and technology—and on arrival in Zurich at ten the following morning goes straight to the FIFA offices."

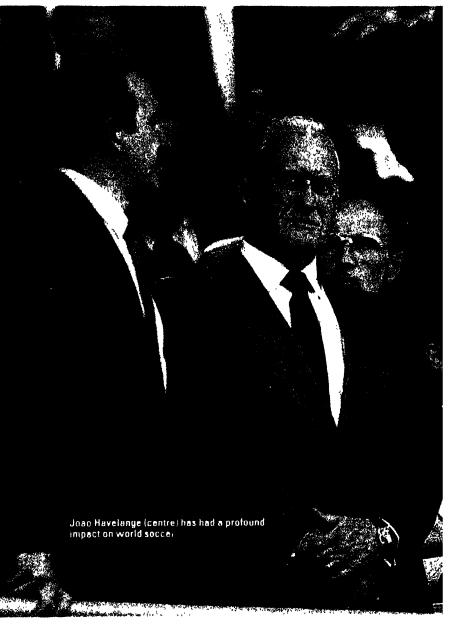
There he works until seven. Usually there is a dinner party afterwards. And then eventually he gets to bed. In all that time he says, he is "physically and intellectually prepared to accomplish my tasks. I am never tired

THE
Joan Havelange (centre) has had a profound impact on world socce.

MODERN-DAY

CAESAR

Portrayed as ruthless and cunning, President JOAO HAVELANGE, who retires in 1998, transformed FIFA into a vast multinational



or irritated. I am never arrogant."

And yet they conspire. They say that to change the face of world football, for the better of course, they must engineer the downfall of Joao Havelange. Because he is a ruthless political operator, who uses patronage and a volcanic temper to intimidate his colleagues, critics, and clients to submission. He is the modern day Caesar, who should have long been brought down by gang of Brutuses.

Well, in the last 22 years, only one Brutus almost emerged from the shadows; that was when Sepp Blatter, the FIFA general secretary, secretly manoeuvred to topple his boss, failed and then faced the heat of Havelange's wrath. It was one graphic example of what happens to those who get too close to the autocratic, almost Caesarean Havelange and then unsheath their daggers.

Personally, however, Havelange believes that he deserves loyalty, though his critics see the subscrvience of those who have to work with him as the unmistakable signs of his ruthless despotism. Only Havelange believes that his despotism is of the benevolent kind.

There is no doubt that football has expanded dramatically as a global game in the last two decades of Havelange's rule, but to the FIFA president himself, what matters most is not just the commercial and popular success of soccer, but the role it has taken to come to the aid of suffering humanity. Havelange's self-imposed mission, before he retires in 1998, is to persuade the great companies of America, Japan and Europe to contribute \$250,000 each to a \$20 million fund designed to help deprived children in Asia and Africa.

According to the project, the money will be deposited in three Swiss banks and the interest will be used to create football schools all over the globe. Havelange would also start tournaments for children between seven and nine years of age, a proposal that will attract scorn from critics who believe FIFA has lowered the age of competitive football too much already.

But then when Havelange speaks of

the future and unveils the centrepiece of his manifesto, there emerges a vision of a game that uses its status to benefit mankind as never before. "As you know, it has been our custom at the end of each World.Cup to have a match between the winners and a team from the rest of the world, with the receipts of about Sone million going to UNICEF. We could also launch an appeal to countries such as Saudi Arabia, who have always been ready to help others, so the fund keeps swelling. This is my mission, and in 1998, I shall say farewell and go back to my country."

My god, this man sounds like a messiah. Why on earth do they still call and portray him as a monster? Why do we still hear the whispered promises of changing the face of world football by "engineering the downfall of Joao Havelange?" Has not he already unveiled the changed, benevolent face of soccer to us, the like of which we had never seen before?

No, they say he and his FIFA have undersold soccer, and anyone who tried to oppose the juggernaut had been bulldozed into oblivion. The TV and marketing rights of FIFA's premier tournaments have been the main bones of contention. Havelange's critics and opponents have all along alleged that there should have been more transparency in the negotiations. And the unilateral decision to package World Cup TV and marketing rights in a 12-year contract that expires in 1998 has been the last straw.

In fact, there had been so much pressure on Havelange that he had to agree last December (1995) to 'greater transparency' in the negotiation of TV and marketing rights of FIFA tournaments. But it is alleged that the promise has, to all intents and purposes, been ignored. The present president set up a self-elected committee to structure deals worth in excess of \$one billion for 2002. Then suddenly, without consultation, rights for the 2006 World Cup were on the agenda.

The wheel turned full circle in May

96, when in Zurich, two contrasting cultures, Japan and South Korea set aside their traditional enmity and agreed to share the 2002 World Cup.

This was something, Havelange had insisted, would happen only "over my dead body", because he thought that the concept of co-hosting the Cup by two nations was against FIFÅ's basic principle. But democracy won the day, rather than one man's interpretation of football's guiding principles. And most observers believe that this unprecedented decision, the most humiliating climbdown of his 22 years as FIFA president, signalled the beginning of the end for Joao Havelange.

Ironically, it was another worldwide debate concerning World Cup venues that took Havelange to monumental heights as a personality having the most positive influence on the global game. The United States of America was obviously the last place any soccer fan would have liked to see the World Cup happen. Soccer had been as alien to the American psyche as cricket could have been to the French. But Havelange's ultimate goal was world domination for association football and his organisation, FIFA, He sought to bring fifty 'countries' within soccer's expanding empire by awarding one World Cup to the USA.

"America has 50 states", he said, explaining why FIFA should bother to try to-conquer the United States. "One can consider them 50 rich countries. It is a fantastic gain in the development of football. It will really open a big market for the sport."

This was absolutely indisputable.
And this was the greatest proof that here in Joao Havelange we had a doctor of law and successful businessman whose lifelong aim had been to extend FIFA's sphere of influence as far as possible. Given his remarkable success, one wonders if all this would have been possible without the autocracy and despotism that had been the style of Joao Havelange and the focal point of severe criticism from his detractors during his two eventful decades at the helm.

freewheeling

HERE have been all kinds of writings in this column: serious, not so serious, flippant, even book reviews. But never a film review. I intend to break that tradition with this piece influenced by a movie released over the Christmas period all over the world. It features probably the most powerful movie pairing you could think up. Michael Jordan, perhaps the most famous and positively the richest sportsman in the world and Bugs Bunny, king of the cartoons since the 1940's. They were paired in Space Jam, a blend of live action and animation containing more rowdiness and broad humour than vintage cartoons.

But under the humour there is also a swipe at Euro-Disney. Consider the movie's resident evil empire "a Mickey Mouse organisation" with an intergalactic amusement park called Moron Mountain. The Nedlucks of Moron Mountain have been despatched by their ruler Swackhammer (the voice of Danny De Vito) to kidnap the Warner cartoon characters for his failing theme park. But Bugs Bunny tricks the aliens into a fate-deciding basketball game, not knowing the Nedlucks can appropriate the talent of others—NBA stars, Patrick Ewing, Larry Johnson, Shaun Bradley and Charles Barkley.

But when it comes to the big game, Bugs decides that only Jordan himself can save the day. This reel-life is of course close to real life. Jordan returned to basketball after a 17 month retirement and within two seasons has taken the Chicago Bulls to

Michael Jordan jams up with Bugs Bunny to



the top again.

And now big-time American dollmakers Martel, always on the lookout with a wholesome image, are planning a Space Jam tie-up with a Michael Jordan doll to add to the stars' list of endorsements. In fact, Space Jam seems like one massive cross-bred commercial —for the Warner Studio Stores, Nike, Gatorade, McDonalds and of course Michael Jordan himself.

There is a bit of real life in it. Like when Jordan announces he is retiring to take up baseball.

"I'm a baseball player now," he says at one point. "Oh, Yeeah," Bugs cracks, "and I'm a Shakespearean actor."

Bugs Bunny may not measure up to the towering basketball star in terms of physical stature, but the lovable celluloid rabbit is just as much a giant when it comes to entertainment power. Just as people now flock to see the magic of Jordan, in the good old days a theatre's advertisement had to say no more than "two Bugs Bunny cartoons," for people to put their money down, forgetting what features were playing and forgetting that the two cartoons would be over in 15 minutes.

Space Jam has carefully brought these two icons (two giants of sports and popular culture) together. The idea has been to bring back the whole Looney Tunes Crew right down to Tweety and placing them in a contemporary and sporting setting.

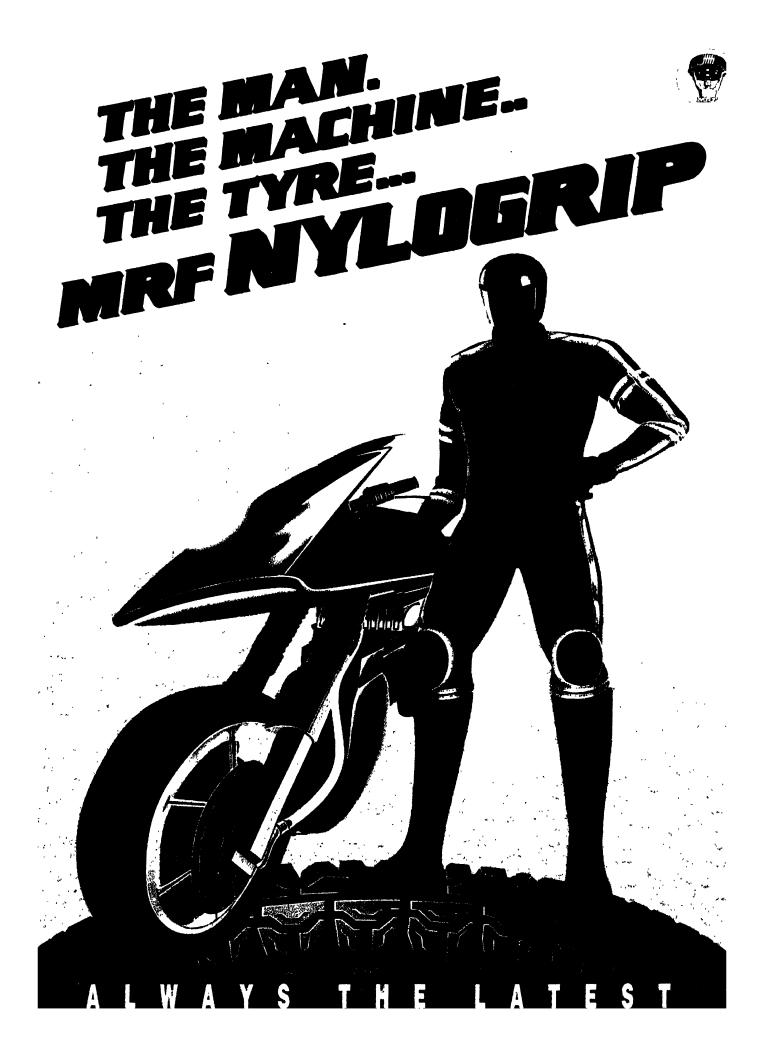
Jordan is seen in the movie forming on-court huddles with all manner of creatures from Warner Bros. Space Jam may be a bit too intent on presenting Jordan as a sports celebrity of destiny. He may be the greatest ever, granted, but the movie gets positively religious about it. As one member in the audience seated beside me summed it up: "Jordan plays an old 'toon'. And now that Jordan has invented yet another way of increasing his bank balance, it would not have been out of place if Bugs were to ask him of his future plans: "What's up doc?"

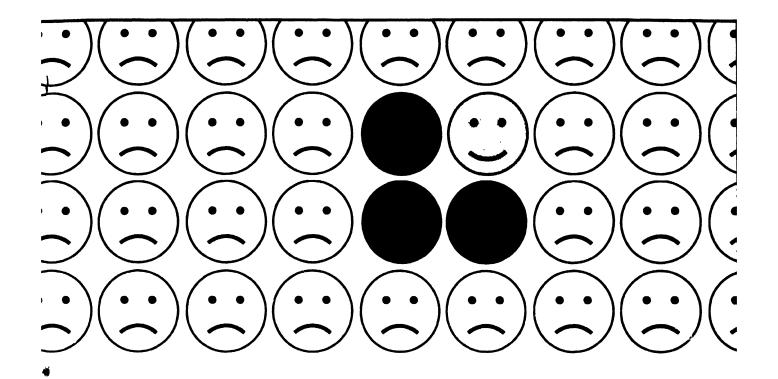
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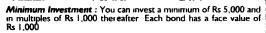
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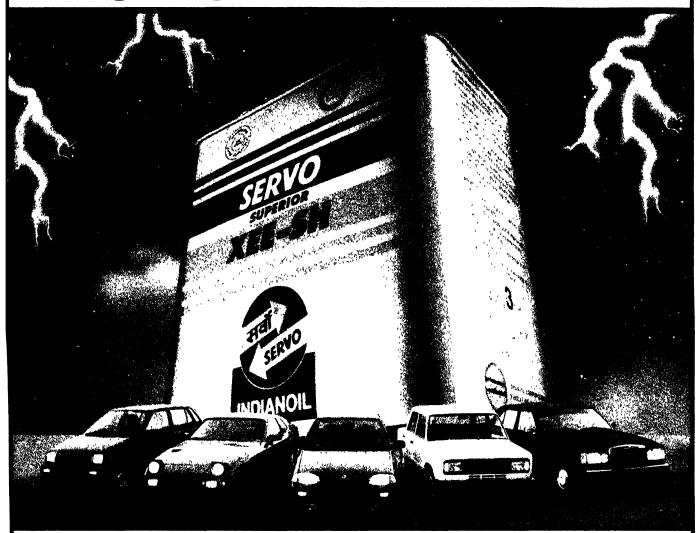




IMAGEIS NOT EVERYTHING!

BRIAN LARA is now known more for his controversies, than for his batting skills

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REBOUND ACE!

Ajay Jadeja answers to the call of duty

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IMAGE IS NOT EVERYTHING!

Brian Lara realises that fame can extract a heavy price

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HORSE SENSE?

The banning of Pesi Shroff can have a long-term effect on Indian racing

COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF BRIAN LARA BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY. PHOTOGRAPH OF MARTINA HINGIS BY COLORSPORT







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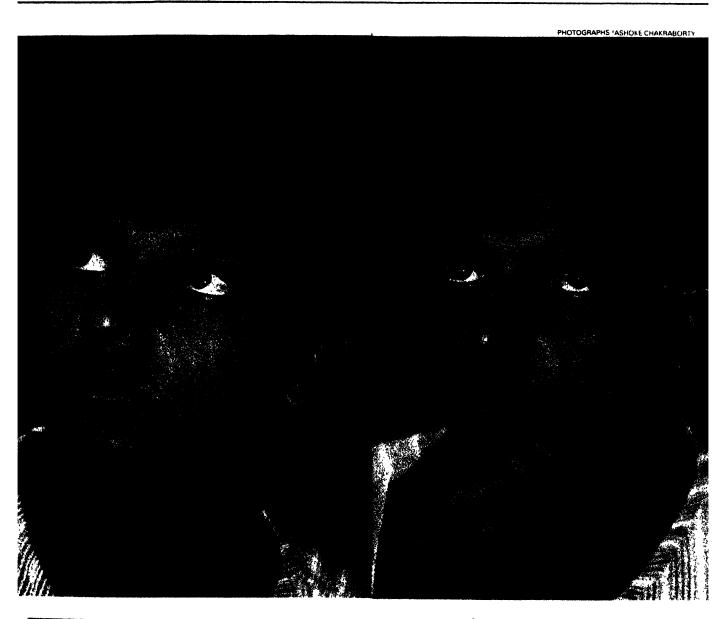
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REBOUND ACE!

AJAY JADEJA more often than not finds himself out of the Indian cricket team. But his enthusiasm never waned, and he has proved himself when he has been called for duty



BY RICA ROY

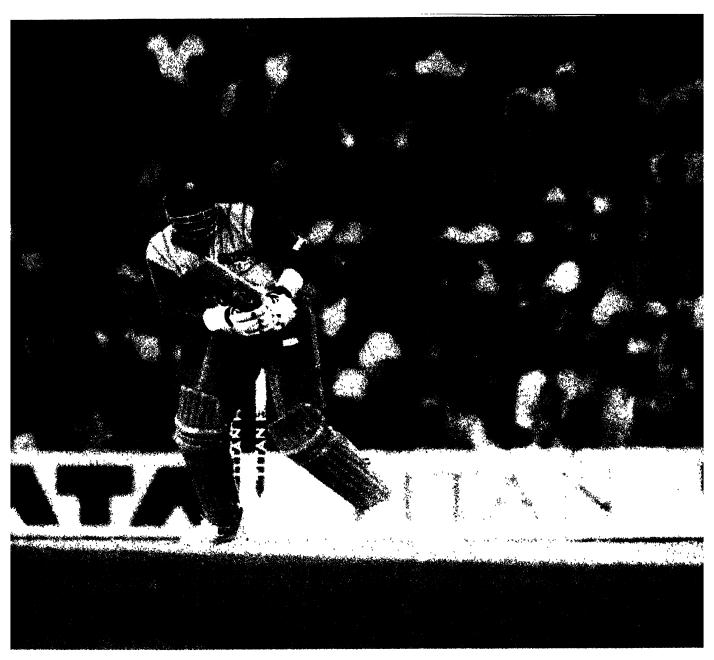
JAY JADEJA simply loves it..... he loves playing cricket for his country. His broad grin, his on-field exuberance and lively spring-in-the-step demeanour gives us ample illustrations of the above-It is a pleasure to watch him perform in these days when cricketers go about their job with hangdog expressions and with slouched shoulders as though they regret carrying the burden of playing for their country. Jadeja's refreshing approach to his cricket stems from an uncomplicated philosophy-"If I'm given a chance I'm going to make

sure that I grab it and utilise to the full." Chances have always been at a premium for this champion performer. One moment he is hailed as the nation's saviour, in the very next he doesn't figure in the list of top ten batsman in the country and doesn't even make it into the squad!

There was no berth for him in the Indian side picked for the Safari tour to South Africa. So, what explanation, or consolation, did the young man provide himself? Jadeja knew for certain that he was not the first, nor would he be the last Indian batsman to be summarily discarded from a tour for no logical reason. And he's not seeking sympathy from any quarters either. But, even given the

notoriously itchy fingers of the selectors, his fall has been so devastatingly swift, that you wonder whether the reasons go deeper than mere inadequate Test records of the past. Jadeja, himself, preferred to believe that his exclusion resulted from lack of consistency. "There was really no disappointment on being left out, 'cause, if you look at the records when they picked the side, I wasn't really performing all that well. So I believe the only way to get back is by performing."

Here's a man who doesn't think much about chasing the proverbial pot at the end of the rainbow or simply wishing that life would be easier and less intriguing for him.

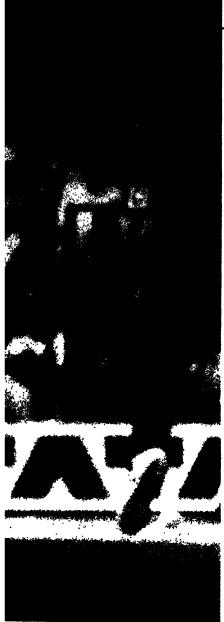


Rather he believes in living life. What's more, he might have tried at times to figure out the myriad hues that life offers but at heart he remains a realist. Jadeja is willing to learn from past mistakes and chart his future course with experiences from the past. Jadeja maintained, "I've seen the greatest of cricketers who have made remarkable comebacks in the international fold to rule the world. I still remember Anil Kumble wasn't in the zone side the year he came back to the national squad. I'm at least in a better position than that. I would not really consider myself unlucky in any way. With a positive approach I've always waited for things to come."

And once in a while things did come his way. When the Indians realised that they were well and truly cornered in South Africa, and desperately needed to save face in the one day series they once again chose to recall Jadeja and no one was more happier than our protagonist himself. It is certainly not the first time that he is experiencing a recall but it is a feeling that Jadeja has learnt to cherish over the years.

Ask any cricket aficianado in India about Ajay Jadeja and they are probably going to voice the same opinion about his cricketing skills—"Ah yes, Jadeja, what a lovely player. His fielding exploits are

beyond comparison. And he makes batting look so effortless." Effortless is the operative word in the Jadeja lexicon; effort finds no place in his game or his psyche. Though his talents enable him to make the game look simple overall, he desperately struggles for the right opportunity. Jadeja has an array of shots, some of which may be unorthodox, but once he gets going he's a spectator's delight As a batsman and an excellent fielder and team-mate he's the ideal cricketer: honest, selfless, thorough. He is talented that's for sure, but he's not brilliant and Jadeja is the first to realise that. Jadeja would never deceive himself or anybody else.



ALOKE MITRA

Whether you call it fortitude, dedication or simply "the right stuff," he has got oodles of it, and any cricket team would be lucky to have him in the middle. In addition, Jadeja strikes the right balance between cricket and life, which, according to him complement each other in many ways, "In a country like India your life is ruled by the game. The commitment is such that you just cannot afford to relax. You've to sacrifice a lot for a life in cricket. But there's just no room to feel bad because you might have better and bigger things in waiting. And it's only here that one has to strike the right chord."

Behind the unerasable smile of this

Once Ajay Jadeja gets going there's no stopping him, and very often he is Indie's matchwinner

soft-spoken, courteous soul there are the tales of toil and stories of guts and gumption. There has been numerous occasions when he pulled India out of the rut in an admirable and totally ruthless manner. They were the innings' authored by a batsman who never had an iota of self-doubt as he faced the best bowlers in the business. The numiliation that Wagar Younis suffered at Bangalore during the World Cup illustrates the point. Jadeja has never been a conjurer with the bat; not a Azharuddin, certainly. You never sit and wonder how he managed to do it, but at the end he is the one who won the match for you.

Yet, come to think of it Jadeja is a conjurer all right. He is a conjurer with his own mind. He has made self-doubt vanish without a trace and has produced self-confidence and superb innings' from seemingly thin air. According to him, "Today's cricket is played 80% in the mind and 20% on the field. I've always been a thinking cricketer. It's only that I don't try and show people. I firmly believe what you do on the field is more important than what you do off it." Still, at the same time he knows that in this day and age when cricketers are such alluring fodder for sports scribes, one has to be extra cautious about off-field activities as well.

Undoubtedly Jadeja is one of the top draw among Indian cricket fans. Superstardom? That has come to sit comfortably on his young shoulders. The one thing admirable in him is the complete lack of any airs. There's a distinct warmth in the frequent use of the word "friend" when one speaks to him. And there are probably few, only too few who have this extraordinary contrast of practicality and eccentricity—usually seen as a sign of a genius. Jadeja however, does not believe that men are born with exceptional qualities. "I think every human-being is born with more or less the same ability. It's only how much labour one has put in, that counts. Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod

Kambli both played together, both were involved in the record partnership, then would you point to the fact that one was more talented than the other?" was Jadeja's logic.

And that is what cricket has done to the man—it has taught him to think rationally and has brought out the best in him. In fact, Jadeia uses his work ethic rhetoric to counter accusations that he has not been serious enough on the field when he has been given the chance. "If I wasn't serious enough, I wouldn't have played for India in the first place. I cannot have anyone else making judgements for me. It's only the public opinion that matters. They turn up in thousands to watch you play. There's a tremendous level of expectation and you got to keep up with it. The pressure is there to perform when 40-50 thousand people are there to cheer you up and you got to be serious enough, committed enough to go out and bat under such situations." And he has pulled off wonders saving the team from inevitable defeats after the established batsmen were back cooling their heels. Which is why Ajay Jadeja continues to be the darling of the crowd even if he is not a certainty in the Indian playing XI.

Still, the battle which began as a debutant in the World Cup'92 goes on. Strangely, as the selectors continue to master the game of musical chairs, talents like Jadeja suffer. Thankfully, that hasn't had any adverse effect on the confidence factor. In fact, of late, he cannot remember his confidence wavering. "For me it is a situation where if things are not going well I will question myself. What can I do different? I will work around the problem and I will try to do the maximum, and I have never been in a position when I didn't find answers."

And it's absolutely essential that he keeps finding his answers quickly for Indian cricket definitely requires his services. It needs somebody as vivacious to spread enthusiasm and hope in the Indian team. And, for Ajay Jadeja hope and enthusiasm always came in abundance.

HOME ALONE!

VINOD KAMBLI continues to remain the most notable omission from the Indian team that is touring South Africa

IN SPITE OF his best efforts, Vinod Kambli still remains out of the national team. First, it was the disciplinary action and then it was a series of discouraging performances with the bat which got him out of the team. Kambli always enjoyed an edge over the others, being the sole left-hander in the team.

But the arrival of Bengal lad Sourav Ganguly left Kambli facing tough competition. Though both of them claim that they are not competing with each other, the fact that one of them was selected while the other was omitted has left the Indian cricketing public asking a lot of pertinent questions.

It would be unfair to judge Kambli only on his bad days, since he also maintained a consistent record for quite some time. The support that he received from the crowd at the Eden Gardens during his innings of 87 for the India 'A' team against Lancashire gave him some confidence, specially after the infamous semi-final match at the same venue where he was left with nothing to do but shed tears. Today Kambli has matured both as a person and as a cricketer. In the following interview, he provides some illustrations to that effect.

A very good score against Lancashire at the Eden Gardens. Are you getting that confidence back?

Yeah, I'm quite satisfied. Though this was not a very important match but we played very seriously. The crowd

supported me throughout. I won't say they have helped me but their support encouraged me a lot. Specially in Bombay and Calcutta, whenever I go out to bat in the middle, I have a different feeling. My last match in Calcutta was not a good one. I am happy that I have scored in this match.

How does it feel to be out of a team in which you had been a permanent member at one point

of time?

Well, it's all a part of life. At least that i what I try and tell myself. Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad. Being a professional one has to learn how to deal with it. I have taken it in my stride. I am now focussing on making a comeback.

There was a time when you were scoring runs very consistently. What really happened in the



Vined Kambli has learnt that fame can be a double edged sword

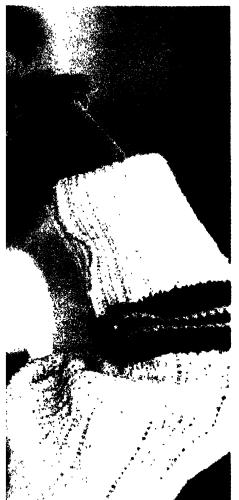








One of India's most colourful cricketers goes through his paces in lutter loneliness



middle?

No, it's only a lean patch and nothing else. It happens to the best of us. I am practising a lot, playing as many matches as possible. I am happy that I am getting my touch back again.

Do you see any technical problems in your batting?

No, nothing as such but there are a few things which need to be sorted out. Basically cricket is a learning process. You learn something everyday. Therefore, there is always room for improvement. So in the same vein, my batting needs to improve. I am getting the 70's and the 80's. But what I need is to convert them into three figures. I feel that the 100's will start coming soon.

Do you feel the present left-handers in the team have left you facing some tough competition?

I do not think so. If I perform well and score runs then it doesn't matter as to who is in the team and who isn't. I do not feel that I am facing tough competition from the other left-handers. Nobody can provide competition for me. Therefore, I have no competition at all.

Does that mean that Souray

Ganguly is not considered as competition?

1944

No, not at all. Actually the media builds these things up: that we are fighting for the same position, and in that process they are pressurising both me and Sourav. In terms of our batting, we are two different types of players. Which makes me wonder; what will the media do when we become the best of friends?

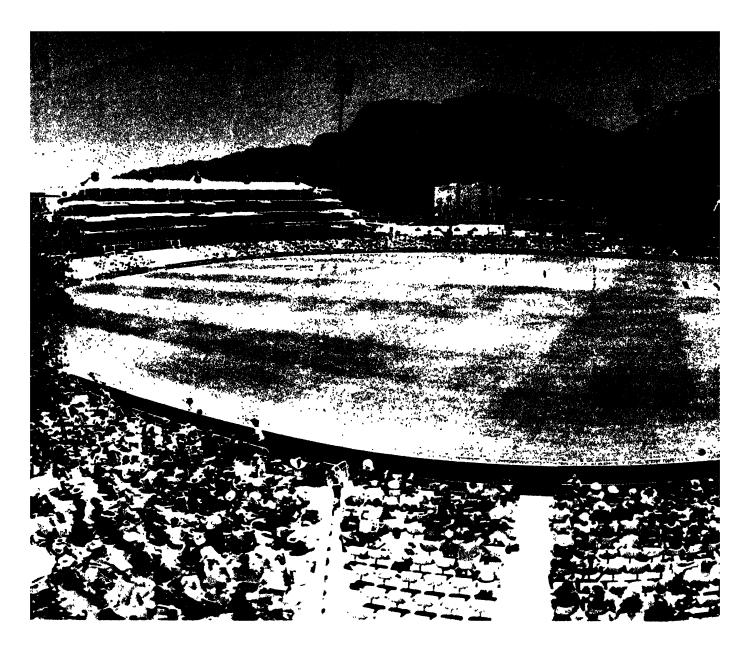
How does it feel to be the best friend of the Indian skipper?

Yeah, it's a very nice feeling. I am very happy and proud too. Though friendship has nothing to do with cricket and captaincy. Anyway, it's a nice thing to happen. What more can I say.

Any specific preparations for a comeback?

As I've said earlier, there is nothing like playing lots of matches. If I play more matches then I'll be in touch with my cricket all the time. Besides, I am practising at nets but there is a lot of difference between playing a match and doing nets. Some big hundreds will definitely bring me back into the team. I am trying to get some big hundreds.

Interviewed by Mitali Ghoshal

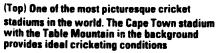


'CONTACT' LENS

The Indian cricketers are painting a very sorry picture in South Africa. So we decided to let you feast your eyes on something different. Photographer KAMAL JULKA mingles with the public







(Top Right) It was this handshake and the presence of the legendary Nelson Mandela that inspired Sachin Tendulkar to score one of his most valuable Test centuries ever

(Right)A visibly happy and proud Hansie Cronje with the Friendship Trophy which was instituted during India's first tour to South Africa after apartheid was lifted

Archbishop Desmond Tutu paid a surprise visit to the South African dressing room and overawed Cronje, Bacher, Kirsten and Hudson with his magnetic personality







Allan Donald wreaked havoc on the psyche of Indian batsmen and made them look like mere mortals



South African supporters hammered home a point as their batsmen went on the rampage



The heroes that stood among the ruins. Sachin Tendulkar salutes the crowd after a stupendous century, while Azharuddin who was also a centurion in the match walks up to congratulate him



The Indian cricket team on an overseas tour are a very relaxed lot and provide excellent photo possibilities. Here Mohammad Azharuddin, Ayesha Begum (nee Sangeeta Bijlani), Nayan Mongia, Sachin Tendulkar, Anjali Tendulkar, Mrs. Madan Lal and Tanu Mongia pose for the camera







(Top)Cricketers these days find it tough to spend quality time with their families. Here Dave Richardson makes the best of a break to be with his children

(Left)Even in South Africa, Mohammad Azharuddin was a big hit with the crowd and here he obliges a few with his autographs. Something he has stopped doing in India



(Top) Relexed and sporting. That is the only way to define the cricket viewers in South Africa



Clive Rice seems to be perfecting his stance while Mohammad Azharuddin, Maninder Singh and Desmond Haynes share a joke



The Indian think tank: (from left) manager Sunil Dev, captain Sachin Tendulkar, vice captain Anil Kumble, and coach Maden Lal. None of their strategies seemed to work against the South Africans



They came to support their country, but the Indian expats were a disappointed fot after Tendulkar's boys put up one miserable performance after another



South African supporters had plenty to cheer about and Allan Donald did not let them down

For more pictures, see Page 26

Vintage Form

Azhar is showing his true vintage colours. His batting is reminiscent of some of the old time greats; so much so that he is being compared to the great Ranji, the Oriental Wizard. The silken elegance of his strokeplay is breathtaking and simply fantastic. May his batting fortune thrive in the years to come. Here's a tribute to his resurgence:

Azharuddin is back to his old glory,

All his critics are now sorry,
For shooting him from the hip,
On the shoulder with a chip.
Sure of hand and wrist,
He shows them his fist.
After the World Cup debacle,
He was under a manacle.
With pulled up socks and

His batting is now a spectacle.
With Sangeeta and marriage,
He is erect of stance and
carriage.

Sure of his old found way,

Grossly Unfair

I don't want to sound like someone canvassing for the 'Make Azhar captain' campaign. Far from it. Sachin Tendulkar quite rightly is India's man. But this is an impassioned plea to all who follow our cricket team.

Judge Tendulkar as you would judge any captain of any country. To expect that whatever he does is some part of a magic act, is not only grossly unfair, but also downright ridiculous. It's also useless to constantly highlight Tendulkar's happier times as against Azhar's low days—it's almost as if the heady days from



Cricket will be sunshine and hay.

SHANMUGAM MUDALIAR, Pune.

1993 till before the World Cup never happened! (Remember, those are the days which groomed Tendulkar for today).

Finally, kudos to Arta Mishra for writing one of the most sensible mailbag letters (issue dated 4-17 December) that have appeared since Tendulkar took over. To continue from that letter, here's a request to some sportswriters who just can't get enough of Tendulkar: would you please look around and acknowledge that ten other cricketers happen to play for the same team as Sachin Tendulkar?

SWAPNA MITRA, New Delhi.

Recall Jadeja & Sidhu

JAY JADEJA and Navjot
Sidhu most definitely
deserve to be selected in place of
W.V. Raman and Vikram
Rathore, to open our innings.

The only reason the inconsistent Rathore keeps on getting selected is due to his political connections. As for W.V. Raman, one fails to understand as to why the left-handed batsman was recalled.

One only hopes that Ramakant Desai decides to risk embarrassing himself by sending Jadeja and Sidhu to South Africa....

S.M.MAHAJAN, Chendigarh.

Right Choice

I am glad that you have done the most appropriate thing by choosing Sportsworld's Sportsperson Of The Year all by yourselves without the customary opinion poll, which would have yielded the same result anyway. For us Indians, all that glitters is Leander Paes's bronze.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.

Excellent!

THE year-end special (Sportsworld, 18 Dec. 1996.) was really love at first sight for me! When I received the issue, I just could not take my eyes of the brilliant and breath-taking photographs of the Atlanta Olympics.

Thanks for giving such a feast to my eyes!

AMIT BHATTACHARYA Tinsukia.

EVERYTHIS

Once dubbed as the King of Cricket, BRIAN LARA has found out that you are only as good as your last score, and that fame can exact a heavy price





FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA

T has been yet another summer of discontent for the man they call the king of cricket. The summer Down Under has given rise to two questions concerning the great Brian Lara. First, whether in fact he is all that great a batsman or is merely a good batsman with an artifically bloated record? Secondly, will Lara eventually inherit the mantle he so desires and has been groomed for: the captaincy of the West Indies?

Lara's mediocrity, especially by his own high standards, must cast some doubts about the quality of the bowling when he set his world records in 1994—his Test record score of 375 against a struggling England side on a flat pitch in St. John's Antigua in April and his 501 not out for Warwickshire against lowly Durham in an English county match at Edgbaston in June.

It is perhaps unfair to be critical of such mammoth knocks, by a study of the opposition bowlers in those matches is quite revealing: they were quite ordinary really.

The great Dennis Lillee has written recently: "I don't want to pour cold water all over Lara's two world records, but his Test best 375 was on one of the flattest wickets in the world and against a very ordinary team. And his first class 501, after being dropped on 17, was hammered against county newcomers Durham. Batsmen earn superstar status through being consistent. It is time for Lara to prove he is capable of overcoming extreme pressure and demonstrate to the world he is worthy of the crown which is sitting a little askew at the moment."

Lara has been a monumental failure in this series in Australia, especially in the Test matches. He has managed only 73 runs at an average of 13 from six innings. His last four innings producing scores of two, one, two and two. His one day contributions—apart from his tenth one day century in the

Brian Lara is down but is he out? That is the question uppermost in the mind of most cricket fens





An increasingly common sight for Lora fens. His stumps being hit regularly by most of the top bowlers in the world

New Year—have also been well below the expectations of a player expected to shape the summer.

Lara has shown at times that he can devastate an attack in a short period of time and that he is a strokemaker who is never tied down and who can improvise spectacularly when the bowling is good. But what he has not shown is consistency.

Journalists here have been edgy about writing off Brian Lara right through the summer. No one wants to feel like the record manager who said the Beatles couldn't play. But only a huge miracle from the batsman whose deeds have rewritten the record books can save his side in the Test series.

Technical analysts believe Lara's high backlift makes it difficult for him to make runs on wickets of variable pace like in Australia. They compare him to a tennis player who makes a massive wind-up for his serve, trying to time the ball on a windy day. Once the racquet has been taken right back and the ball shifts in the air, it's hell's own job to hit a perfect serve.

The Australian team, for one, have tried to work the angles with Lara and break his rhythm. The idea is to have one bowler sliding the ball across his body from over the wicket, then Glenn McGrath coming around the wicket from the other end and angling the ball away from him and they trying to take it away from him off the pitch.

In fact, it is McGrath who is the man primarily responsible for ruining Lara's reputation this summer and for exposing the myth. Time and time again, the Australian opening bowler has reduced the West Indian wonder batsman to a mere mortal and a pretty unhappy one at that. The gifted left hander simply can't seem to overcome the McGrath bogey; apart from casting doubts over his lofty standing as the world's finest batsmen, it has also raised questions about his temperament.

On the second day of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, McGrath dismissed Lara for the fourth time in five innings in this series and for the sixth time in seven Test matches. It is joked that the only other Australian who has been as successful against Lara is the woman bowler Michelle Goss who got Lara's wicket twice in a charity exhibition game a few years ago.

The uncomplicated easy-going speedster revealed his secret of success against the West Indian vice captain: "Brian likes to play his shots and likes to have room to play those shots. So I just try and keep him cramped up and bowling round the wicket seems to be a successful ploy."

In the following innings, McGrathbowled tightly at Lara and then moved wider off the crease and got the ball to swerve away. Lara took the bait and tried a back foot shot, but simply sliced a catch to Shane Warne at gully. He departed for two after 26 miserable minutes with his only scoring shot coming after 22 minutes. As he walked back to the pavilion there were serious doubts being raised about his form and state of mind. The guy could still go down as one of the legends of the game.

Although he is averaging 57.36 in Tests, the questions that will be asked at the end of his career are: did he make his runs in crisis situations? Did he make them on a turning or seaming wicket—and what was the quality of the attack? Only very good players come through the kind of predicament Lara now finds himself in, and after just 36 Tests, it is impossible to say how history will judge Lara the batsman.

IT has always been said that the Americans worry about their vice presidents being only a heart-beat away from the White House. Given the events of the last year and a half, Caribbean loyalists are excused for being concerned that Brian Lara is only a twisted knee away from the West Indies captaincy. The West Indies are down in the Test series here but not yet out and Lara, as the touring party's vice captain, is obviously the man being groomed for getting the whole show back on the road. But for a variety of reasons, the

27-year-old not only has that mighty prospect to ponder over, he also has reached the crossroads of his own career. The pressure on Lara to perform with the bat is enormous right now, but if tour captain Courtney Walsh breaks down, it's anybody's guess what will happen.

"The temperament Lara has shown," says Dennis Lillee, "doesn't indicate to me that he is the man to lead the West Indies out of the doldrums."

Lillee has a point. Maybe Lara is not, what we like to call, captaincy

material, after all.

Consider the following. In September 1995, he was disciplined for taking unauthorised leave during the Windies tour of England. A couple of months later he bailed out of the World Series tour of Australia at the last moment—apparently because of his dislike for the management. He then had a far from private slanging match on an aircraft with long serving

The smile on Lera's face has been rather rare these days. The slump of form has been worrying. Picture shows him in New Delhi '94 during the Windles tour of India

physiotherapist Dennis Waight, a valuable man who hardened the West Indies after the WSC days.

With this tour still having a long way to run, Lara has already charged into the dressing room of the Australians in a threatening manner and announced that wicket-keeper Ian Healy would not be welcome in the tourist's dressing room. He even said publicly that "the captain is too stressed out."

Respected Caribbean radio commentator Tony Cozier, while navigating the minefield that



threatened Lara's troubled career, feels that the captaincy is the incentive that might turn Lara around. "The Windies captaincy is something for which Lara has been groomed, since he was a teenager, but which has recently been placed in some doubt," says Cozier. "Ironically, it has been his own phenomenal record breaking performances of 1994 and the pressures they inevitably exerted that had diverted him away from his pre-ordained goal."

For the Caribbean cricket establishment, Lara has always been captain-in-waiting and his appointment as vice captain for this tour is just another recognition of that. He captained the team to the Youth World Cup in Australia in 1988 and the A team tour of Zimbabwe in 1989 when he was only 20. By the next year, he had become the youngest-ever captain of Trinidad and Tobago. In 1994, he was promoted to vice captain of the West Indies team in the same Test match in which he scored the Test record 375.

That innings—and the seven consecutive centuries along with the unbeaten 501—changed his life and the future course of it. Says Cozier, "He is not the first young sports star to be overwhelmed by fame, adulation, expectations and commercial demands that followed. These in Wes Hall's apt phrase, 'hung like an albatross around his neck'...and led to the widely publicised misdemeanours that have brought him a fine and two warnings from the Board's Disciplinary Committee in the past year."

After that, he was punished by being deprived of the vice captaincy and when Lloyd and Walsh took it upon themselves to name him second in command last year against the Kiwis, the Board reversed the management's decision.

What changed the Board's thinking about Lara's preparedness for the responsibility prior to this tour, is not known. Perhaps they thought the break Lara got from the game—his first since he rewrote the record books—may have done him some



Long-time girlfriend Leasel Rovedas recently gave birth to a daughter. Lara named her Sydney after his epic 277 there in 1983

good. Away from the probing eye of the public and the press, Lara was able to play his second favourite sport—golf—, gain some weight, build a mansion overlooking Port-of-Spain (on government donated land) and see the birth of his first child from long-time girlfriend Leasel Rovedas, who he has named Sydney after his knock of 277 there in 1993.

Though Lara's fallouts with previous captain Richie Richardson and coach Andy Roberts were obvious, he was supposed to be comfortable with the new management set-up. He has gone on

record saying that under Lloyd he "felt at home...felt like playing cricket," and he is supposed to be close to both captain Walsh and coach Marshall who roomed with him during the last World Cup.

Lloyd still declares that Lara "knows the game and has a good cricket brain. He has gone through a bit of a difficult period over one or two things but I think he is coming to grips with his role as a senior member of the team."

The sooner Lara does that the better—both for himself and for Caribbean cricket. Fame they say has its price; the West Indies will be hoping that their star batsman has paid it. If not, history will not be kind nor the game of cricket enlightened by one Brian Charles Lara.





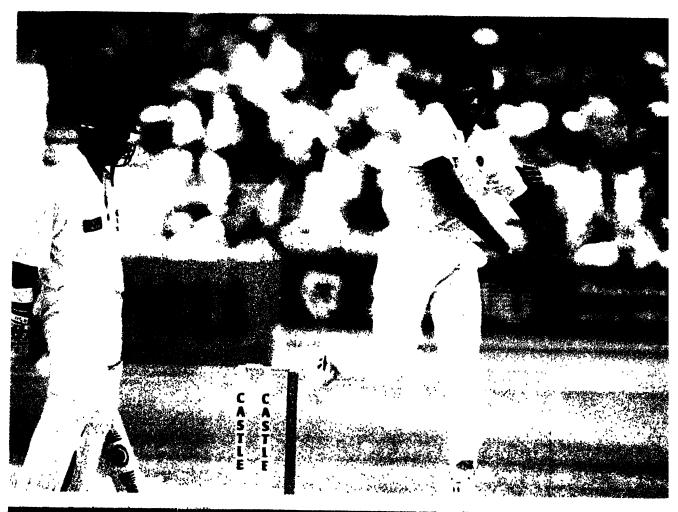


'Hello? Yeah, it's me Ali Bacher.' This was the man who was entrusted with the task of taking South African cricket to new heights and he's certainly done a remarkable job. Moreover, it has certainly kept him engaged

Welcome to South Africa....A group of traditional dancers pose for the camera after a performance for the visiting Indian cricketers in Port Elizabeth

The men responsible for moulding the South African team into a cohesive world beating unit. Ali Bacher and Krish Mackerdhuj chat with Frank Maltalese, the Premier of Kwazulo, Natal and Jacob Zuha, Chairman of the African National Congress (both facing camera)

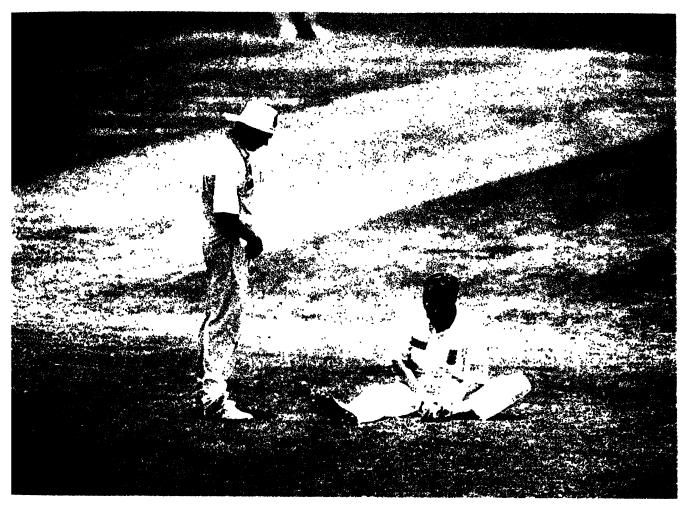






Venkatesh Prasad took off from where he left off in India. The pitches suited him just fine, and his deliveries gave many of the top order South African batsmen some sleepless nights

Shaun Pollock recovering after a long layoff, thanks to injuries, came back to partner fellow fast bowler Allan Donald in shattering the morale of the Indian batamen. Picture shows Saurav Ganguly being dismissed caught by Klusener off Pollock



When White Lightning: a.k.a Allan Donald strikes, batsmen depart. Captain Hansie Crohje was more than happy with his strike bowler's performance. Someone should tell Allan Donald a thing or two about nuclear disarmament



Sachin Tendulker may not be too happy with its team's performance in South Africa but he sertainly proved to be a big hit with the cricket crazy crowd

P H O T O F E A T U R E











South Africans were in a holiday mood when the Indians landed there and it seemed like the only South Africans at work were the cricketers. The fans turned up in large numbers to watch the proceedings in the middle, be it a warm up match or a Test—for them it was another chance to party. They came armed with their beers, food, flags, umbrellas and the mandatory sun tan lotion. One got the impression that most of the spectators were out there to get a good tan and have a good picnic. But when the going in the middle was not too interesting the members of the crowd took it upon themselves to entertain each other. The pot bellied character, a certain Mr. Alec Kock, was a hit amongst the spectators and was the unofficial cheerleader of the South Africans. Rumour has it that Mr. Kock wants to get officielly sponsored by the UCBSA. And if Kock's antics were not enough, then there was the bend to keep the crowd entertained during change of overs. Cricket viewers in South Africa are a breed apart

THE BEST AND



1996, like all previous years, was a mixture of both good and bad for the sport. PAUL FEIN goes down memory lane and updates us with the highs and the lows

BEST MATCH—Arantxa Sanchez Vicario twice served for the match in the final set, but the incomparable Steffi Graf held on both times and outlasted the relentless Spaniard in a 6-3, 6-7, 10-8 thriller, the longest French women's final ever, lasting 40 games and three hours and three minutes. Afterwards Graf, whose hustling foe ran down scores of her would-be winners, said, "It was probably the most spectacular match Arantxa and I have had. The one in Wimbledon last year was dramatic. But I think this was even more incredible."

BEST COURAGE—Outplayed for much of his grueling U.S. Open quarterfinal against unseeded but highly skilful Spaniard Alex Corretja, Pete Sampras, once accused of lacking guts, spilled his guts—he vomited in the fifth-set tiebreaker—and hobbled with exhaustion before fighting off a match point and prevailing 7-6,5-7,5-7,6-4,7-6 in a spectacular four-hour, nine-minute marathon.

BEST WHIZ KIDS—Martina

Andre Agessi the welking telking billboard earned \$15.8 million from endorsements alone in 1996

WORST OF TENNIS



Hingis, the shrewd Swiss player emerged as an elite player by upsetting Steffi Graf 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 en route to the Italian Open final. Hingis partnered Helena Sukova to become the youngest (15 years, 282 days) Wimbledon champion in history; reached the semifinals in singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the U.S.Open; and demolished co-No.2 Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0 at the Bank of the West Classic in Oakland; and now ranks No.6. Also keep an eye on cute and cocky Anna Kournikova. The 15-year-old Russian femme fatal, who wears midriff-baring tops, has an all-court game and quickly moved up to No.27.

BEST LONGSHOT—Richard Krajicek, a 25-to-1 longshot, became the first Dutchman to win a Wimbledon title when he ousted 1991 titlist Michael Stich in the round of 16, three-time and defending champion Pete Sampras in the quarterfinals, and unseeded MaliVai Washington in the final, all in straight sets.

BEST RUSSIAN
BREAKTHROUGH—Yevgeny
Kafelnikov became the first
Russian to win a Grand Slam
singles title when he beat
Germany's Michael Stich 7-6,
7-5, 7-6 in the French Open
final. The 22-year-old with
impeccable strokes showed his
versatility by capturing the
doubles with Daniel Vacek to
become the first man to win
both events at a Slam event
since John McEnroe at
Wimbledon in 1984.

Stoffi Graf with Anna Kournikova at the '95 U.S Open. The brash but talented Kournikova was a big hit and ended the year ranked 27

BEST TRIBUTE TO BORIS—After Boris Becker delighted the hometown crowd in Stuttgart by ending Pete Sampras' 21-match winning streak with a 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory in the Eurocard Open final, the gracious Sampras said, "He's to Germany what Michael Jordan is to the United States. There's only one king in Germany, and his name is Boris.'

Boris Becker was hailed by Pete Sampras as the best loved sportsman in Germany. Becker thinks differently though and he is planning to shift to the U.S.A

Martina Navratilova claimed that Steffi Graf's latest problem, a swollen tendon in her left kneecap, was "an excuse ahead of time just in case she needs it. If you read the newspapers, you'd think she belongs in the hospital. If you look at her today (routing Martina Hingis 6-1, 6-4), she's running like a gazelle." Irritated that Navratilova implied she exaggerated her injuries, Graf icily retorted: "She's lucky she doesn't have to live with them. I think she should know better than to say these things.'



BEST STREAKER—Melissa Johnson, wearing a big smile, and little else, pranced across hallowed Centre Court moments before the Wimbledon's men's final. The shapely, 23-year-old London student was topless and wore only a tiny maid's apron which she lifted up. Finalists Richard Krajicek and Mali Vai Washington broke into laughter. as did most of the 14,000 fans.

BEST SUPERSTAR TIFF—Commenting for HBO-TV during Wimbledon,

BEST MCENROE PERSPECTIVE—Always opinionated John McEnroe, who co-starred with Jimmy Connors and Bjorn Borg in the early 1980s, said: "When I say we were more exciting, it sounds like sour grapes. And I'm biased. But they were some magical times...Tennis today needs personalities. There's no disguising it."

WORST BORG NEWS-Bjorn Borg, the 1970s superstar who reported once had amassed a \$75 million fortune, owes creditors \$1.6

million, according to Bertil Sodermark, a lawyer for Sweden's debt-enforcement agency. In October, Sodermark said Borg's creditors are losing their patience and that Borg must pay or declare personal bankruptcy. Borg has previously testified in court that he doesn't have any assets.

BEST EYE OPENER—When asked what he thought of having men and women play together at Indian Wells, macho-serving Goran Ivanisevic replied: "After the Hopman Cup I changed my mind a lot about women's tennis, especially after Hingis and Rubin—they had returned my serve like a piece of cake. It is unbelievable. I couldn't hit an ace. They were returning better than the guys."

BEST SAMPRAS CONFIDENTIAL —Pete Sampras mourned the May 3rd death of Tim Gullikson, his four-year coach and close friend, and confided about it changed his life. "Maybe it turned me into a man. I've learned it's not simple all the time. It scared me. It sobered me up; I mean, I'd never thought about death before. Out on the court, I always felt like I was in control of my own destiny; then, watching what happened to Tim. I found out that when it comes to some things, you have no control at all. And I found out about finality, and that shook me up the most."

WORST NIKE TV COMMERCIALS AND BILLBOARDS—One of the tag lines on Nike's TV commercials and billboards at the Atlanta Olympics was "You don't win silver, you lose gold.' Since there were about 11,000 athletes and about 10,400 losers in Atlanta, that message —that silver is for losers—is hardly what inspired Baron Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympic Games in 1896.

BEST GRAF
PHILOSOPHY—Far less
concerned than Sampras with
her place in tennis history and
breaking records, Steffi Graf
said: "The thing is, I don't care
enough about it that I have to
think about it....The only thing
that really counts is if you are
satisfied with what you have
achieved, and I think
everything else is for the people
to talk about."

BEST TRUE LOVE I—The audience was delighted when Brooke Shields kissed "Friends" star Matt Le Blanc, but her true love, Andre Agassi, who was on the set felt like throwing up and objected loudly. "It's hard for him," Shields said. "To watch the person you are in love with kissing another person makes your stomach a little ill."

BEST TRUE LOVE II—Brooke Shields, Andre Agassi's fiancee, revealed that if she could ask anything of God, it would be, "How can I love him more?"

BEST EDBERG CONFIDENTIAL—In his farewell year on the pro tour, Stefan Edberg, tennis' foremost sportsman, confided: "I've received a few gifts(at tournaments). People have been very nice. The press has been really good. I've been getting a lot of attention. The great part is they are cheering for you again. It makes you feel good. Sports always has been my passion. It has given me a chance in life to be somebody."

BEST DOUBLES

TEAM—Australians Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge captured their fourth straight Wimbledon, second U.S.Open, the Atlanta Olympics, the Lipton, their second Phoenix/ATP Tour World Doubles Championships and seven other tournament titles to dominate men's doubles. Unfortunately, very few of the top singles

players—except Yevgeny Kafelnikov—régularly compete in doubles, which somewhat diminishes the Woodies great record.

WORST MEDIA INSENSITIVITY—Monica Seles' ecstasy minutes after winning the Australian Open turned into sadness when the media asked her ill-timed and insensitive questions about whether she'd play

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde of Australia remain the most consistent doubles players of the modern era WORST
UNCOUTHNESS—When
Frank Ofori, playing Davis Cup
for host Ghana against Britain,
won the pre-match coin toss,
he said to opponent Luke
Milligan: "You serve. And I will
break you."

BEST(?)KINKY
RELATIONSHIP—Gorgeous
blonde Daphne Deckers says
the reason her relationship
with Wimbledon champion
Richard Krajicek is so special is
that because they rarely see
each other, it's great when they

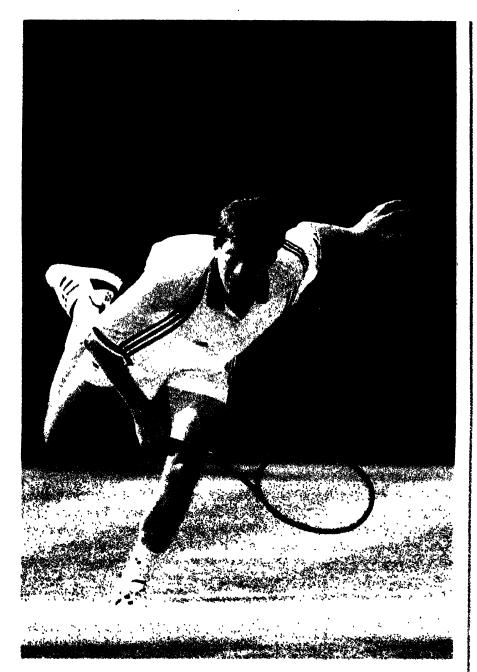


tournaments in Germany to complete her psychological recovery from her 1993 stabbing there. A distraught Seles cried and left the press room and fled the stadium with her parents.

BEST DAVIS CUP
UPSET—Unknown Mahesh
Bhupathi scored shocking
singles wins over Jan Simerink
and Jacco Eltingh to lead host
India to a 3-2 upset over The
Netherlands in the first round
of the Davis Cup World Group
competition.

do. Style, a British magazine, reports that Deckers spends time with her ex-husband who sometimes wears Krajicek's clothes.

WORST AWARD—John McEnroe, who fathered children out of wedlock and still behaves like a spoiled brat on the court, was implausibly among the four men honoured as "fathers of the year" by the New York-based National Father's Day Committee for being "great father role models." You figure it out?



BEST TRIBUTE TO STEFFI

II—Former superstar-turned-TV tennis analyst Martina Navratilova called Steffi Graff "the best all-around player of all-time, regardless of the surface."

BEST BRITISH

SHOWING—Led by talented Tim Henman who upset Yevgeny Kafelnikov en route to the quarterfinals, Britain placed seven men in the Wimbledon second round for the first time in 20 years.

WORST PRESS

MEANNESS—During the 1996 U.S.Open, some of the German media shouted at Steffi Graf, "Steffi, how can you play tennis when your father is on trial?"

BEST ENDORSEMENT CHAMPION—Charismatic Andre Agassi ranks No.1 in endorsements among tennis players—and No.4 among all athletes—with \$15.8 million income in 1996, according to Sports Marketing Letter. Tim Henman was the first Briton to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 23 years. Sadly, no one was there in the Royal Box to acknowledge his feat

BEST TENNIS

DIPLOMACY—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke played tennis several times during the Dayton peace agreement negotiations among the warring nations in the former Yugoslavia.

WORST STEP

BACKWARD—After more than a decade of prize money equality, the Ford Australian Open took an obtuse step backwards by giving the men \$390,000 more prize money than the women.

BEST"IN

MEMORIAM" —Tim Gullikson, one of tennis' most popular and respected figures, died May 3 at age 44 after waging a courageous year-long battle with brain cancer. Gullikson, who didn't join the pro tour until he was 24, was the 1983 Wimbledon doubles finalist with his twin brother Tom with whom he won 10 doubles titles and ranked as high as No.18 in singles. In his second career as a coach, Gullikson guided Pete Sampras to the No.1 ranking and six Grand Slam titles.

BEST VENUS WILLIAMS PRAISE—Rick Macci, Venus Williams' former coach, described the 16-year-old Florida phenom as 'a unique combination of (Monica) Seles and Martina Navratilova."

WORST PHYSICAL WOES—A leading London chiropractor likened 27-year-old Steffi Graf's seriously injured lower back to

the back of a 60-year-old woman.

BEST-LOOKING

BABE—Check out beautiful German Jana Kandarr. While

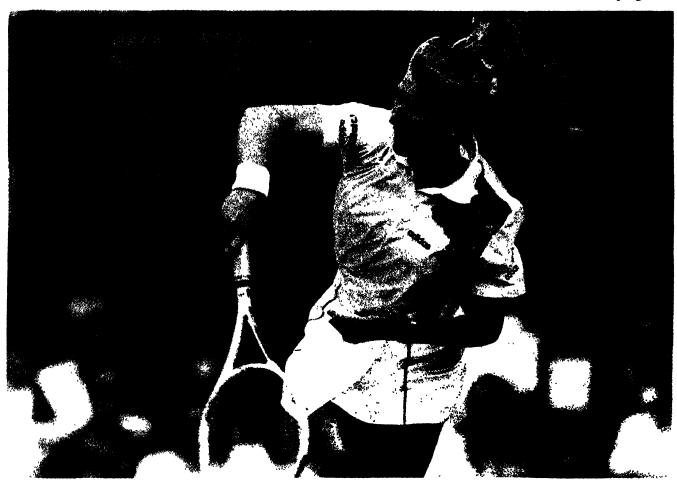
No.90 on the WTA computer, Kandarr ranks at the top with the media who pack interview rooms following her matches.

BEST RACQUET LEGISLATION—Contending that the blitz of super-long rackets marketed in the past two years "constitutes a threat to the nature of tennis," the International Tennis about the tour. I play, do press, then I'm out of there."

WORST SEEDINGS
SCANDAL—The United
States Tennis Association
started weaving a tangled web
of deception and favouritism
when, for the first time in 116
years of the

The more problems there are in Staffi Graf's life, the better tennis she plays. 1986 provided us with ample illustrations of that Chang and Andre Agassi.
When outraged players loudly protested—Yevgeny
Kafelnikov, demoted from fourth to seventh seed, withdrew—the embarrassed
USTA, in an unprecedented move, made the draw again, although the dubious seedings stayed.

BEST COMMENT ABOUT HOMOPHOBIA—Gay rights



Federation (ITF) wisely decided to ban racquets longer than 29 inches in the professional ranks starting January 1,1997. That length limit will go into effect at all levels of official competition in the year 2000.

WORST GRAF ADMISSION—Unapologetic about her total lack of involvement in promoting the women's tour, Steffi Graf told The Los Angeles Times:"The thing is, I've never cared much U.S.Championships, it conducted the traditionally public men's draw in secret, prompting suspicion that it was hiding something. Indeed it was because the USTA had reversed the normal procedure by placing the 112 non-seeded players in their slots before assigning the order of the 16 previously announced seeds. It then deviated from the ATP's official rankings for only the third time since 1973 to move up Americans Michael

activist Martina Navratilova said: "I've asked a lot of writers this: 'Have you ever asked male athletes if they were gay?' None of them have, but many of them have asked women athletes if they are gay. But they treat male athletes differently. Even when they know there are some gay guys out there, they protect them."

BEST ROMANTIC
GUY—Andre Agassi proposed



marriage to Brooke Shields on bended knee under a waterfall in Hawaii.

BEST OLYMPICS

POINT-Michael Stich, who won a doubles gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics but skipped the Atlanta Olympics, said: "We have the four big (Grand Slam) events every year, and to us that is much more important than the Olympics. So it's not a once-in-a lifetime thing like (it is) for so many of these athletes who train for just this time."

Monica Seles had to face a hostile media after winnning the Australian Open in '96 and left the stadium in tears

BEST REPARTEE—When Steffi Graf overheard controversial Chilean Marcelo Rios saying that he didn't think much of women's tennis, she walked over to Rios and said. "You have a great forehand, but Idon't like your hair."

BEST T-SHIRT MESSAGE-"They want you to be like them..." read the

provocative message on Monica Seles's T-shirt.

WORST IDENTITY

CRISIS—A citizen of Ukraine, Andrei Medvedev said, "I will play for Ukraine (in Davis Cup and Olympic competition), but I won't feel proud of it. I wouldn't feel proud of playing for Russia either. I belong to a country that no longer exists. I hope one day the republics get reunited, and then I would be proud to play for this country. I would be ready to die for it.

BEST SELES REBUTTAL-In her autobiography, Monica Seles responded to a journalist's harsh comment that she had never seen tough times and didn't understand reality:"Did that reporter know how it felt to leave Yugoslavia and my family at 12 try to survive in a place where I didn't know the language or the people? To leave my home with no guarantee that I was doing the right thing? To take my parents away from their friends and relatives, from their livelihoods, knowing that the family finances now rested on my 12-year-old shoulders? Had that reporter ever heard the words, 'Monica, don't panic, but they found another cancer and I have to go into surgery tomorrow.' Had he ever felt a slice of burning agony bolt down his back and turned to see his attacker raise both arms to strike again?'

PUNCH(WOMEN)—Five days after getting bounced from the French Open in the first round, Jennifer Capriati's thundering right

WORST

hand-intended for her boyfriend who ducked—caught the left eye of a Tampa nightclub waitress. Capriati, who rejoined the procircuit earlier in 1996 after a long layoff and two stints in drug rehabilitation, rebounded from that incident and regained much of her former top 10 form by the fall.



BEST FIRST FOR INDIA—An inspired Leander Paes claimed India's first Olympic medal in any sport since 1980 when he beat Brazilian Fernando Meligeni 3-6,6-2,6-4 for the bronze medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

BEST MCENROE
PROPOSAL—"What I would
recommend is to take 10% out
of the players' (tournament
prize money) check before they
get it and force the players to
give back to charities," says

John McEnroe. "Make people more aware of what is more important: teachers, policemen, firemen. Things that save people's lives.

Somebody has to be big enough to say, 'Let's take 10%'. The players are still going to make a ton of money."

BEST COCKINESS—When asked what is the strongest part of her game, brash 15-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova replied: "I can mix it up and do everything."

Arantxa Sanchez somehow seems to bring out the best in Steffi Graf and in the process elevates her own game to a different level

BEST(?)PRO-MARIJUANA POSITION—Yannick Noah, who admitted he smoked dope during the 1983 French Open which he won, told L'Equipe: "We're setting athletes apart in a society in which everyone knows there are lots of people who smoke joints. When you take up sport, your goal is not to become a model for the young but to be the best. I'm not saying smoking a joint is good, but it's not serious. In no way does it affect sporting values because an athlete smoked a joint one evening.

BEST IMPROMPTU
CONCERT—When rain
stopped play at Wimbledon, Sir
Cliff Richard, the veteran pop
star, took centerstage on
Centre Court with an
impromptu concert. Martina
Navratilova, Pam Shriver,
Virginia Wade and Conchita
Martinez joined the chorus
behind Sir Cliff and joyously
sang, danced and clapped along
to hits like "Summer Holiday,"
"Bachelor Boy" and
"Congratulations."

WORST ROYAL SNUB-When Tim Henman, the first Briton to reach the Wimbledon men's quarterfinals in 23 years, took the court against American Todd Martin, the royal box was nearly empty. "The Pictures That Shame Britain" was the Daily Mirror headline above a photograph of a painful-looking Henman standing in front of the empty box. Other papers also took the royal family to task for not supporting the hometown boy.

BEST
PHILANTHROPY—Stefan
Edberg pledged \$300,000 for
the establishment of a tennis
foundation that will be run in
conjunction with the Swedish
Tennis Federation and will

concentrate on supporting and developing 13 and 14-year-old players on Sweden's junior Davis Cup and Fed Cup squads.

BEST BROOKE SHIELDS INSIGHT—On fiancee Andre Agassi's romantic ways, actress Brooke Shields revealed: "He's not a gifty-jewelry person. He'll buy you a car, he'll get your house painted, or you'll come back and your garage will be de-spidered." "That was probably the biggest show of sportsmanship by any athlete I've ever seen," said Washington who won 6-7,7-6,5-7,7-6,6-4.

WORST FANS I—Unruly, hostile Brazilian spectators shouted death threats,

Martina Navratilova, after retiring from tenais, became an outspoken gay and animal rights activist WORST STINK—The non-working, malodorous toilets at the Olympics Games tennis stadium in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

WORST CRITICISM OF MUSTER—"He'd do anything to win, including taking you out," says South African top tenner Wayne Ferreira. "If Muster isn't the most hated player on the tour, he's a close second."



BEST
SPORTSMANSHIP—Playing in the quarterfinals of his first Wimbledon, 91st-ranked Alexander Radulescu had American MaliVai Washington on the ropes with two match points in the fourth set. At 4-4 in the fifth set, Washington, also unseeded, hit what appeared to be a winner but the shot was called out. The Romanian-born German overruled a line judge and conceded the critical point.

insulted, spat at, cursed, threw small stones at and blinded Thomas Muster with mirrors during host Brazil's Davis Cuptie on September 21st with Austria.

WORST FANS II—After Goran Ivanisevic lost to unseeded Jason Stoltenberg in the Wimbledon quarterfinals, disappointed Croatians left notes on Ivanisevic's car that read, "You are never going to win Wimbledon." BEST AGASSI GIRLFRIEND REVELATION—Amy Moss, a former girlfriend of Andre Agassi, explained why they were never intimate. "If you want to know about Andre's sex life, go buy the Bible. Having sex is wrong in the Bible, and that is what he follows."

BEST PAT CASH
CONFIDENTIAL—Married
with four children now, a



mellow Pat Cash told the Daily Mail about his past life as a controversial hearthrob: "I used to go into pubs and people would want to pick a fight with me. I would hear a group of girls says: 'Oh look, there's Pat Cash.' And then one of them would come up to me and say, 'You think you're so good,' and throw a drink in my face. That kind of reaction from people was a bit of a shock initially, and you don't ever really get used to it."

BEST(?) CLOTHING
CRITIQUE—Writing in The
Times of London, David Miller
referred to Nike as a "vulgar,
opportunistic equipment
sponsor, who send him (Andre
Agassi) on the court dressed
like some Baghdad street
trader. This greed—by the same
company that has kitted out
Mary Pierce in a black cocktail
dress and Pete Sampras in the
Coco the Clown's trousers—is a
corruption of the game's
elegance."

Mr. Consistent: Pete Sampras finished the year on a high, remaining No.1 on the ATP Tour

BEST BALL-THROWING MACHINE—SAM, the Sports Action Machine that costs \$25,000, can pump out more than 1,000 different shots.

BEST E-MAIL JUNKIE—Chanda Rubin logs in on her Corel laptop computer seven days a week and three to four times a day.

BEST HUNK—Bare-chested, muscular and handsome Pete Sampras appeared in a new "milk moustache" magazine ad campaign targeted at women ages 25 to 44 to encourage them to increase their calcium intake.

BEST ANIMAL
ACTIVIST—Who else, but
Martina Navratilova. She has
appeared in recent ads
denouncing steel-jaw animal
traps.

BEST IVANISEVIC-ISM—"I say some stupid things sometimes, but that's not unusual for me," confesses Croatian Goran Ivanisevic. No argument there, Goran.

BEST CONFESSION—After fading, former top 20 player Alexander Volkov lost 6-2,7-5 to Mikael Tillstrom in the first round of the St. Petersburg (Russia)Open, Volkov confessed, "My only desire now is to get drunk. I've lost all my skills as a player."

BEST NASTASE QUIP—Illie Nastase, still mischievous at 49, unsuccessfully ran for mayor or Bucharest. His campaign had a catchy slogan: "He built a name, now he will rebuild a city." Nastase also had some great quips. According to a British paper, he told a woman journalist that he had only three things on his mind: "Winning the election, food and sex. So what is your room number?"

AN 'OARSOME'

GUY

STEVEN REDGRAVE of Britain became this century's greatest rower when he won his fourth straight Olympic gold medal at Atlanta

HE picturesque English riverside village of Marlow paid tribute recently to a favourite son, who has just cemented his place as one of the greatest Olympians of all time.

Steven Redgrave and partner Matthew Pinsent successfully defended their Olympic coxless pairs title on Lake Lanier, bringing Redgrave's personal tally to an astonishing four gold medals in successive Games and making him the most successful British Olympian ever.

The two were guests of honour in Redgrave's home town at a day of festivities to celebrate their achievement. An open-top bus bedecked with the Olympic rings made its way through cheering crowds. Down by the riverside, the pair received gifts bought by public subscription and presented by the Mayor of Marlow, Mr Ivor Coleman.

The presentation was made within sight of the local boathouse where Redgrave had first taken to

Steven Redgrave (far right) and Mathew Pincent wave to the crowd after they win the gold medal in the Men's Coxless Pairs at the Atlanta Olympics the water as a teenager, encouraged by a teacher at the local Great Marlow school. Redgrave had suffered from dyslexia, but found the ability to express himself on the water.



That ability, as more than one newspaper described it in the run-up to Atlanta, was truly "oarsome".

By 1980 he was already an outstanding junior; in the early Eighties, success up-river at Henley Royal Regatta was followed by a place on the Olympic team in Los Angeles.

The Olympic gold in the coxed fours on Lake Casitas years ago was the beginning of the "gold standard" for Redgrave.

World and Commonwealth success followed.

Before autumn 1988, Redgrave was back in a new event—the

coxless pairs—in which he won the gold with Andy Holmes. The two men went their separate ways following Seoul; after Redgrave's new partnership with Simon Berrisford was sabotaged by injury, the union with Matthew Pinsent was an inspired one. So, too, was the enlistment of German Jurgen Grobler as coach.

For much of the Nineties, they have been unbeatable, setting new standards for their competitors to follow. In Barcelona, Redgrave was the unanimous choice to bear the country's flag into the stadium during the opening ceremony, an honour repeated in Atlanta, which



Redgrave displays his Atlanta Olympic gold

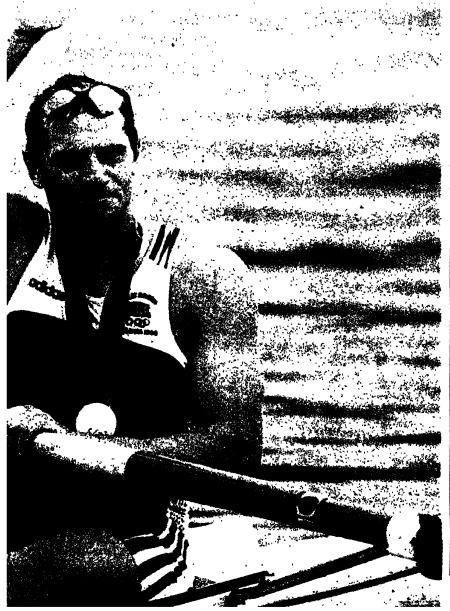
in itself was a moment in British Olympic history. On the water, the results have been the same every time; in 1992, success was achieved despite a persistent illness in the run-up to Barcelona.

In 1966, they provided Britain's only gold medal in the Games, but as Matthew Pinsent noted, their success demonstrated the power of the Olympics. "There is so much about winning at the Olympic Games that touches those who normally have no interest in rowing, or any sport"he said.

Pinsent says he will aim for Sydney in the year 2000.

Redgrave swore immediately after Atlanta that he would never row again. Now, he admits that going for a "five-timer" in Sydney is a big temptation. Whatever he decides, there is no doubting that his success has been an enormous inspiration to the local Marlow Boat Club, which celebrated its 125th anniversary with one of its most successful campaigns ever. The Club named a boat after Redgrave, and a Steven Redgrave room has just been opened to honour the man who modestly says, "I'm just Steve Redgrave from Marlow, who happens to have won a few races." Philip Barker

COURTESY, OLYMPIC REVIEW



SORRY STATE

The recent national grasscourt championships held in Calcutta was a big disappointment in terms of standards and a lack of talent. The future for Indian tennis seems bleak



BY AMITAVA DASGUPTA

S Nitin Kirtane and Vasudev Reddy battled for the national grasscourt championship on a hazy afternoon at the South Club, one overheard an elderly man quip:"You should have played, Rico...I'm sure you would have won the title."

That was a telling comment, really, however foolish it may sound. In one sentence, the 60-plus gentleman had summed up the standard of the country's premier tennis championship more eloquently than

a thousand words. Even at the age of 35, six-time national runner-up Rico Piperno would, indeed, have been a fair bet to break his jinx had he come out of retirement.

And yet, the nationals had promised so much! With established big brothers' Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi deciding to stay away, it was one hell of an opportunity for the young (and some not-so-young) pretenders to make a mark. Even Davis Cup captain Jaidip Mukerjea was looking forward to the tournament, hoping to spot a talent or two worthy enough to join Leander

Aarti Ponappe and Nitin Kirtane display their trophies after they won the singles titles at the National grasscourt championships

and Mahesh in the Indian team.

One man did leave an impression at the end of a forgettable week-Nitin Kirtane. The left-hander from Pune, who must have been at the fag end of Jaidip's Davis Cup shortlist on the eve of the tournament, catapulted to fame by upstaging three of his more fancied challengers en route to his maiden national crown. Defeating Asif Ismail. Sushil Narla and Vasudev Reddy from the quarter final onwards without dropping a set would easily rank as Nitin's greatest achievement till date. All his three victims possess the big weapons necessary to win grasscourt battles. Still, they were hopelessly mesmerised by Kirtane's cocktail of slice and top-spin shots which hardly exist in a grasscourt specialist's armoury.

Ismail's case, at least, one can understand. A combination of talent, not harnessed to yield the maximum returns and a fair degree of ill-fortune has more or less convinced him that big-time tennis is not up his sleeve. A real pity that, because at the beginning of this decade, Ismail was one kid who looked to be best suited to emulate Leander's amazing deeds. How can one forget the first four games of Ismail's match against South African Wayne Ferreira in that Jaipur Davis Cup tie in '94. The world No.9 didn't know what hit him as his unpretentious opponent aced him left, right and centre; he returned like a mad man to open up a 4-0 lead.

That was a brief glimpse of what Ismail was capable of had he taken his tennis a little more seriously and had he been treated with a lot more care. Realising that the game would not give him the financial stability he was looking for, Ismail has been forced to explore alternate avenues a trifle prematurely. An ESPN commentary deal is now a bigger priority than domestic tournaments. The unceremonious quarter-final exit at South Club hardly touched the inner chords of this former national champion.

For Narla and Reddy, though, there can't be any alibi. They are the most talked-about duo on the domestic scene in recent months; the two were seeded to fight it out for the coveted title and, possibly, a Davis Cup berth. Who would have known that there was a masked killer lurking in the shadows, ready to pounce on any weak-hearted prey.

Narla came into the championship riding high on his national hardcourt title triumph. Having served notice of his undoubted talent some three years ago, Narla threatened to seal the number three spot in the Indian team with a hardcourt-grasscourt double. And he does possess the ammunition to excel on both surfaces. A kicking serve, fluent strokes on either flank and above-average mobility compensate for his relatively weak volleying. But, then, one must know how to use one's strengths in different match situations.

Narla did well to stay calm and wriggle out of a tight corner in his second-round match against Dennis Hardeman, a solid 21-year-old Dutchman, just embarking on a full-fledged career after completing his studies. The out-of-form Prahlad Srinath ran out of luck, getting injured and being forced to concede his quarter final against Narla after only three games. That set up a Narla-Nitin clash—one which cruelly exposed the Hyderabadi's tactical flaws. All Nitin did was slow down the pace and get everything back. Denied the luxury of his free-flowing rhythm, Narla looked all lost and his game disintegrated to a level beyond recognition.

Narla must realise that tennis is as much cerebral as it is physical.



Perhaps, he could pick up a tip or two from Nitin. Also, Narla needs to come down to earth. The way he moves around on and off the court gives one the impression that he has won three back-to-back Wimbledon titles.

Reddy has no such hang-ups. He, too, is blessed with some enviable tennis skills—a hard first serve, an effective forehand and a pleasing backhand which is too inconsistent for his own comfort. What queers the pitch for Reddy, however, is his flat-footedness which is more pronounced than Mahesh Bhupathi's. If a Nitin Kirtane can exploit that drawback to reduce Reddy to a novice, God help him against a more accomplished opponent!

Gaurav Natekar played a good match to send new-kid-on-the-block Vikram Venkataraghavan rushing for cover. But then Natekar ran into Reddy who went on the rampage as everything functioned right, for a-change. Sandeep Kirtane disappointed, as did the much-hyped DHAITA academy trainee Vikrant Chadha.

Without taking anything away from Nitin, the fact remains that his success didn't quite set hearts afire. Simply for the reason that his brand of

Zeeshan Ali with his wife Tehmineh at the South club tennis courts during the national championships

tennis isn't exactly champagne stuff. It was more like MaliVai Washington defying all odds to feature in the Wimbledon men's final—a one-off event which will take some repeating

If the men flattered to deceive, the ladies did not disappoint with their unappealing standard. Petite Arati Ponappa, the Bangalore girl who had lost two previous grasscourt national finals, waltzed her way to glory, with nemesis Nirupama Vaidyanathan miles away from her sight. Having now won the hard court and grass court national crowns back to back, Arati has proved she has no peers among those who compete in domestic tournaments. She can now only look forward to the logical next step-try and make a name for herself in the international circuit, a la Nirupama who is ranked around 180 in the world.

The wily Janaki Krishnamoorthy, with her years of experience, was the one who could have denied Arati glory. She, however, ran out of steam in the semi-final against teenaged Jahnvi Parekh—the best bet from the next generation.

THE DECLINE OF THE EAST

All the three elite clubs of Calcutta should have qualified for the final phase of the Philips National League. In the end, only East Bengal did

BY DHIMAN SARKAR

E ignored the initial symptoms of regression. Perhaps we shut our eyes deliberately or perhaps—and this is important—we were too myopic to understand its full implications. Or perhaps, we overestimated our footballers' abilities. What was ironic about the whole thing was that the bubble burst when Indian football was ushering in a new era.

Professionalism may still be some time away—there were quite a few glitches in the Calcutta-leg and the crowds stayed away—but if the Philips National League qualifiers were the first, unsteady steps in that direction Calcutta clubs' efforts to get their act together lacked both resolve and purpose.

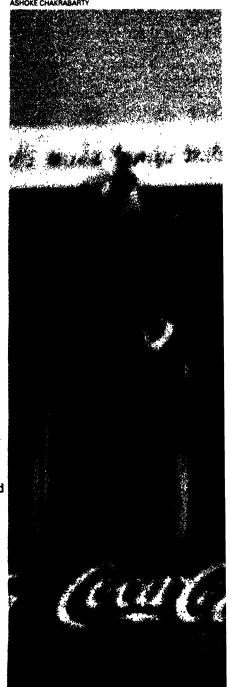
For the elite triad of Mohun Bagan,
East Bengal and Mohammedan
Sporting, the qualifiers was just
another tournament. And while the
rest of the nine teams began
preparations well in advance,
skipping tournaments (Indian Bank
even gave the Chennai League the
go-by), holding residential camps and

inducting foreign coaches inter alia, the Calcutta clubs overtaxed their footballers, practised together for less than a week, sent physical fitness for a six and changed coaches. And still hoped they would come up trumps.

In fact, qualifying should not have been that difficult a task for clubs that pride themselves as the cradle of Indian football. Even finishing fourth among six teams in each group would do. And yet, it was only East Bengal that made the cut. Elucidation enough of the morass Calcutta football finds itself in. For the record, both Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting finished fifth in their respective groups.

The-way Mohammedan Sporting began against East Bengal, they would, it seemed, come out of their current slump in performance.
Gunabir Singh was back from a long injury-induced lay-off and Kiron Khongsai was working well with him in the midfield. Rehmatullah Khan and Aslam Parvez looked solid in the defence and of course, they had the redoubtable Tahumoy Bose, so what if he was coming off a long lay-off, to bank on in goal.

Bose, however, couldn't have hoped for a more disastrous start to the campaign. Twice he erred against East Bengal and twice Raman Vijayan said 'thank you' by scoring goals that should never have been. He got his confidence back by the second game but was surprisingly rested for the match against Indian Bank. It was a move that cost them dear. The bankmen got their act together, when it mattered most, and scripted an upset. Then, against JCT, Mohammedan Sporting despite being



the better team committed needless fouls, conceding set-pieces from dangerous positions. When you do this against a team that has a certain I.M. Vijayan in their ranks, you are courting disaster.

Immaturity and poor finishing thus was Mohammedan Sporting's bane.

Stephen Abarowei of JCT scoring against Indian Bank in the former's opening match in Calcutta. The Phagwara team topped the

Abdul Khaleque, it was known, would be heavily policed but Jalaluddin never really had the close control nor the wherewithal to put the resultant open spaces to good use.

True, Mohun Bagan had little time to adjust to playing away from home but they, perhaps, compounded their woes by changing coaches with less than two weeks before the tournament began. This gave neither

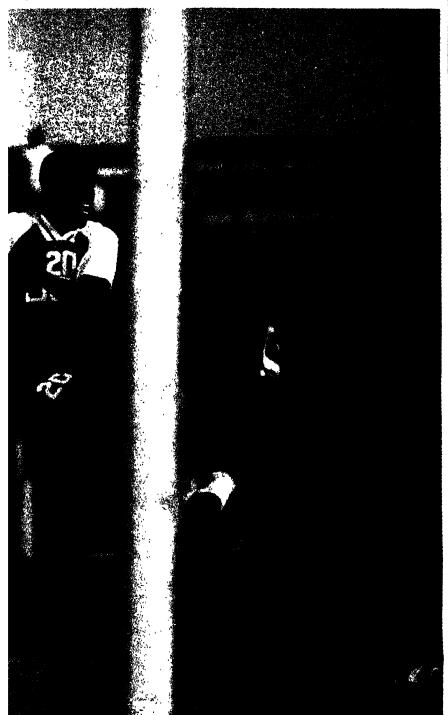
Dronacharya Syed Nayeemuddin nor his wards a chance to settle down. They kept a much-improved Air India—coach Bimal Ghosh and Godfrey Perreira are really working wonders with the team—at bay in the opener and then whipped Kerala Police. Some atrocious finishing and the woodwork ensured that Bagan draw their next two matches. Against Mahindras, Dipendu Biswas and Co. wasted at least five sitters.

And then Bagan messed it up. Needing a draw against Dempo, they lost by a brace. Their fate then hinged on the outcome of the Air India-Mahindras and Churchill Brothers-Kerala Police ties. Both Mahindras and Churchill won and qualified at the green-and-maroon shirts' expense.

East Bengal qualified for the finals all right but their showing was far from convincing. Coach Manoranjan Bhattacharya had not succeeded in infusing anything new to their game despite being with the team for almost one season. Nor has he been able to remedy the chinks that has plagued the red-and-golds throughout the season. Debasish Pal Chowdhury and Debjit Ghosh failed to perform in cohesion despite having played as stoppers for a long time. And when Ranjan Dey was forced to play as a defender, it robbed the midfield of a snatcher, And Amit Das and Basudeb Mondal were not taking the load that their rising stardom merits in the middle third. Had Tushar Rakshit not been the bulwark in the creative zone, the East Bengal story may well have had a differnt ending.

Tushar's play was one of the high points. After a bit of a slump over the past couple of seasons, this cerebral medio has struck form once again, ensuring that the forwards had a steady stream of passes. The best thing about his game is a superb peripheral vision. Moreover, he, unlike most footballers on the Maidan, never holds on to the ball more than required. In that sense, he is a player in the Tajinder Kumar mould.

Another of the highpoints of the







East Bengal's Renjan Chowdhury makes an attempt at the ITI goal. The victory against the Bengalore team ensured the Calcutte side's borth in the final round

Calcutta leg was I.M.Vijayan's delectable execution of freekicks. The power and the flight of his right-instep shots are difficult to judge and he has this superb ability to send the ball both over the wall and around it. Vijayan really came into his own against ITI when JCT were a goal down. The repertoire of his genius was there for all to see as he scored twice and schemed for two more. And, there was Stephen Abarowei who scored three goals in as many matches.

Indian Bank's innovativeness was a refreshing contrast to the Calcutta teams' stubborn refusal to experiment but the finishing touch that separates men from the boys was missing.

Moreover, with G. Loganatha Balaji

fTI's Sunil Kumar is unable to prevent I.M. Vijayan from netting JCT's second goal



and Hamilton Bobby failing to get the midfield going, forwards Syed Shabir Pasha and R. Amalraj lacked support. V.P.Sathyan's performance as stopper-cum-libero (more of the former rather than the latter) showed that he still has some football left in him.

ITI had little preparation, coming into this tournament and it showed in their game. Moreover, not having played on grounds as big as the Salt Lake Stadium turf, their game often came unhinged.

That all three teams from Goa and both from Mumbai qualified for the finals shows how seriously they take their football these days. Bruno Coutinho may not have been playing at his peak but Salgaocar's all-round team game with spurts of individual brilliance from Uday Konar, Michael Gomes and Sanatan Singh and a safe set of defenders made their poor showing in the Goa League to be an aberration.



Salgeocer's Bruno Coutinho was adjudged the 1986 Player of the Yeer by the AIFF during the Philips National League in Celcutts

SANTOSH GHOSH

Chennai's Indian Bank goalkeeper Sebastian Netto thwarts a Mohammedan Sporting attempt. The Calcutta team lost and went out of contention

Dempo, under Mexican coach Walter Oremans, got off to a good start and then overcame some middle-of-the-road blues to qualify as the group toppers. Once again, it was a slap on the face of Calcutta soccer that Christopher Kem and Chibuzor Nwakanma (Churchill Brothers), supposedly past their prime are major forces in their teams.

If it's any consolation for Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting, they are not the only clubs to have pressed the fast-forward button to doom. Kerala Police, former national champions, are on the same path. They still rely on C.V.Pappachan, Liston, C. Jabir, Kurikesh Matthews and a host of other over-the-hill players but ageing limbs do not a footballer make. And the policemen are learning it the hard way.

READERS

QUESTIONS

He was one of India's greatest hockey players. The whole nation was shocked when he committed suicide. Who was he?

Which international athlete was nicknamed 'Puf-Puf'?

In 1884 an unique • thing happened at Wimbledon. Two sisters competed for the singles title. Who were they?

Who were the first • brother and sister pair to win the mixed doubles title at Wimbledon?

Which tennis player • was nicknamed 'Springfield Rifle'?

When Indian O . batsman Nari Contractor was hit on the head and was very

Answer to Question No.11





Answer to Question No.10

seriously injured, a very famous personality donated blood for him. Who was he?

There is an island where cricket is only played by women. Can you name the island?

The football World O • Cup trophy was stolen once. When did this happen and where?

Who was commonly • referred to as The Flying Finn?

Which Grand • Prix circuit is considered the most difficult by the F1 drivers and why?

Only two players • have won the World Cup both as players and then as coaches. Who are they?

ANSWERS

- 1. K.D Singh Babu.
- 2. Gordon Pirie, the long distance runner.
- 2. Maud and Lilian Watson.
- 4. John and Tracy Austin in 1980.
- 5. Tim Mevotte.
- 8. Sir Frank Worrell.
- 7. Caledonia, 1100 miles north east of Sydney.
- 1. 1966. London.
- 9. Paavo Nurmi.
- 18. Monaco. Because it is only 1.9 miles in length and so involves more turning and see changes.
- 11. Franz Beckenbeuer and Mario Zagalo.

THIS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPILED BY



CHINMOY (GOYENKA) ROY, C/O PARIMAL KERJEE. P.O AND VILLAGE: MAHISH BATHAN, DIST: COOCHBEHAR, NORTH BENGAL, PIN: 736 179.

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their



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MEMBER ANDREW YULE GROUP

HORSE SENSE?

The PESI SHROFF controversy could bring about important changes in the Indian horseracing industry

HE suspension of Pesi Shroff by the Madras Race Club (MRC) has come as a blessing in disguise. Reasons for the suspension being other than that of racing, most of the

heavyweights in the industry feel it threatens to break the reciprocal arrangements among the five turf authorities in the country, committed to honour the verdict of one another.

What is most important to these racing mandarins is that the recent developments may lead to the much needed formation of the Jockey Club of India (JCI) on the lines of Jockey Club of England for conducting fair racing. As Vineet Verma, secretary, RCTC endorsed, "It will also win the faith of numerous turfites as Indian racing still lacks a proper rule book, guidelines and the required amount of professionalism."

Therefore, one can see the silver lining to the dark clouds hovering over the horseracing industry. The industry is already reeling under pressure from high taxations, rocketing cost of maintaining horses and establishments, labour unrest, and now a clash of personalities between the two barons of the Indian turf—Dr MAM Ramaswamy and corporate baron Mr Vijay Mallya.

Suspension of any professional—jockey or trainer—by any of the recognised turf centres in the country debars him from taking part anywhere during the period under the reciprocal arrangements. On December 14 last year, ace jockey Shroff was handed a 13-month suspension by the MAM-ruled Madras Race Club (MRC) on grounds which were flimsy and petty in nature.

Each of the five Indian turf clubs has its own regional appeal committee. A committee is pressed into service only for reviewing a sentence handed to the erring professional, by the stewards of the turf club. The committee holds the right to approve, to enhance or even to quash the punishment. The deliberations of the committee are considered final.

Shroff riding Sea Gazer in the Hindu South India 1,000 Guineas, was accused of bringing about the fall of jockey Raji, riding River Wild. The fact that Sea Gazer was always ahead of River Wild in the race, the only way Raji and his horse could have been undone was by clipping the heels of Sea Gazer or of any other horse in front of him. How could a frontrunning jockey be responsible for the fall of the one behind him? Weird are the ways of the MRC stewards who conducted the

inquiry and slapped the punishment.

Shroff pleaded for justice with the 'appeal committee' and the lone person, Mr S. Rangarajan, in the three-member committee who saw reason, was outvoted. Rangarajan resigned in protest against the denial of natural justice to the jockey by his fellow committee members and for a crime that deserved hardly any punishment leave alone a 13-month suspension.

Under protests from the Jockeys Association Of India (JAI), the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) was the first one to break the arrangement and granted Shroff a riding licence, with the Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) following suit. The Hyderabad Race Club (HRC), which incidentally is MAM's stronghold, went





by the MRC ruling while the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) has kept the matter under suspension following a stay order on January 4 by the Chennai High Court restraining Shroff from riding anywhere in the country.

The interim order was granted on a suit filed by the MRC challenging the decision of the RWITC to allow Shroff to ride horses in Western India breaking the reciprocal agreement. The judge posted the application to January 20 for counter and disposal.

Pesi Shroff and Aslam Kader are the two jockeys who really command respect among horseowners, trainers and punters in India. Armed with their superior riding skills, both jockeys are known to dictate terms when it comes to retaining their services. Shroff is engaged to ride for Vijay Mallya while Kader's priority is for Deepak Khaitan-owned horses. Nevertheless, Khaitan and Mallya had always played down their rivalry with MAM as a sporting one till the axe fell on Shroff. Mallya has gone on record saying, "Shroff has been made the whipping boy, I am the real target." Deepak Khaitan is yet to make a public statement. However, sources close

Pesi Shroff has always been loyal to Vijay Mallya. The latter maintains that Shroff's suspension is actually an attack on his credibility by the influential MAM Ramaswamy (inset)



to him echo the sentiment expressed by Mallya whose investment in horseracing runs into nearly Rs.20 crore by way of sponsorship.

MAM Ramaswamy, nevertheless remains the largest bloodstock investor in the country with his 600-odd string of horses engaged in racing all over the country and in breeding—in this case the Chettinad Stud Farm. Khaitan's contribution, however, compares poorly in terms of figures—horses and sponsorship.

The saga of MAM started in Madras, nearly three decades ago. His racing empire built up over the years with good judgement and a keen eye for quality thoroughbreds helped him enter the Guinness Book of Records with 220 Classics—most of which were won in the South, his stronghold.

A trail of controversies shadowed racing in Tamil Nadu nevertheless. Starting with disappearance of jockeys not toeing the line, kidnapping of the court bailiff out to serve summons and spilling of oily matter on the main track to take care of the outstation opposition resulted in a ban on horseracing in the state altogether until the Supreme Court's landmark judgement came in the year 1995 that horseracing is a game of skills.

Now that the Shroff-controversy has been blown out of proportions, a National Appeal Board (NAB) has become the necessity of the hour. According to senior turf members; an NAB may be formed with nominations of three or five heads from each of the five turf authorities. The nominated heads are expected to come from among retired judges, eminent scholars or even top human right activists.

An aggrieved professional seeking justice under such circumstances, may put forward his case through JAI, provided the jockey's association feels that the professional was deprived of natural justice and his case was handled with prejudice by the regional appeal committee. The turf club handing suspension will be required to abstain from the NAB meet to eliminate the element of biased ruling in order to reach a fair verdict.

Doubts are, however, raised if MRC is going to agree to the proposal. MRC has already refused to entertain suggestions that the Shroff-case be forwarded to the Jockey Club of England (JCE) for their judgement which will be binding to all parties concerned.

Through all this petty bickering, however, there is a ray of hope. The horseracing industry is gearing up for a big leap towards the betterment of the sport. Will the MRC be a party to it? Or will they stand by their insular convictions. Whatever be their stance, there is one thing that they must know: there is a long distance to traverse—with or without the contributions of the MRC.

By Pravesh Gupta

A Day In The Life Of

MANOHAR AICH

He is 84 years old. But one look at him will seem to suggest that he has defied age remarkably. Meet 'The Pocket Hercules'



IF you see Manohar Aich today, he clearly lives up to his epithet: the Pocket Hercules. When you see his rippling muscles, it is impossible to believe that he is 84 years old. Not only that, he's sound in mind and body; but he's child-like in his behaviour. At the slightest pretext, he



At the gym doing his daily workouts

loves to flex his muscles.

Manohar Aich, who claims to be the first Indian to become Mr Universe, had a simple agenda: he wanted to be a perfectly healthy man as long as he lived. He agrees that all mortals have to depart from planet Earth but he strongly believes that

regular training (in his case, weightlifting) and a simple diet helps avoid unnecessary ailments.

He developed a passion for body building when he was a young man. He began systematically training in this sport. In 1950, he won the Mr. Hercules of India title. One day, in the year 1952, while he was working as a physical instructor in the Jadavpur University, he came across a magazine which advertised a Mr.Universe competition. An urge arose in him to take part. He borrowed money from his friends. It was just about enough for his airfare. He arrived in London and was then forced to take up a temporary job as Physical Training Instructor in the British Railways, to make ends meet.

In the ensuing
Mr.Universe competition,
amazingly, he became the
winner in the short-height
Group C category.
Predictably, the British
newspapers labelled him as
'The Pocket Hercules'. It
was a name that has stuck
to him till now.

Back home, he had no job. There began a period of

The Pocket Hercules floxing his muscles in front of Studio-de-Physique









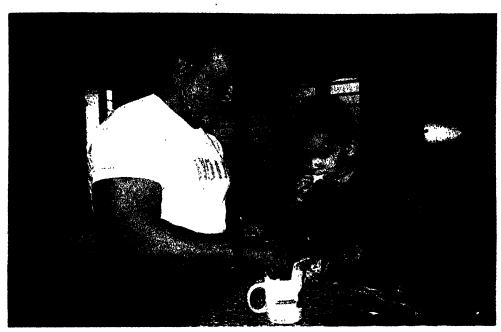


Keeping the rhythm. With wife Juthika playing the dholak at a kirtan session

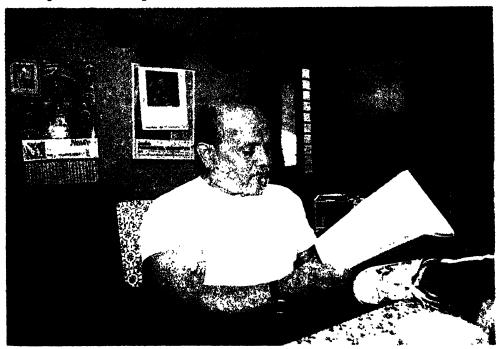


At the local fish stall with his grandson 56

PHOTOFEATURE



With his grandson in the dining room



It's leisure time. In his drawing-room, reading a book

great difficulty for him and his wife Juthika. He had to depend partly on his wife who earned some money by singing kirtans.

Manohar Aich accompanied her as a drummer. In fact, you will be surprised to know, he is a specialist in the dholak.

The money that they earned was paltry. In desperation, he joined a gym as a physical trainer. But the pay was poor. He finally decided to start his own gym. Thus, 'Studio-de-Physique' came into existence. But again, the monetary benefits

were minimal. So he gave private coaching to the boys from affluent families.

Later he joined a circus. His job profile was simple. Displaying his beautifully sculpted muscles to the rapt spectators. He was a popular figure because of his size. Sometimes, he was also mistaken to be a clown. He stayed in the circus for close to ten years but the pay was better than what he was earning before.

Years went by. Through sponsorships, he travelled far and wide. He has taken part in contests in countries like Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. In 1955, he took part again in the Mr.Universe contest in London, This time, he came third. He tried once more in 1960 and again came third. Other career highlights: represented India as a coach of the Indian Arm Wrestling team to Australia in 1980. Was appointed as an **Advisor of the Sports** Authority of India (Eastern Zone) in Calcutta in '89 and 1990.

His financial prospects improved. So, he built a

two-storeyed house in North Calcutta, which contained a newer version of the 'Studio-de-Physique'. Today, he is a relatively famous guy. Young people drop in to see him; they all look amazed when they see his rippling muscles. Some time ago, despairing of the corruption of our politicians, Manohar Aich joined the Bharativa Janata Party. Sensing his popularity, he decided to stand for the Parliamentary elections. However, he lost. It was clear that voters preferred

rather than as a politician.

Manohar Aich simply lives up to the adage: 'You are as old as you wanna be!'

him as a 'Pocket Hercules'

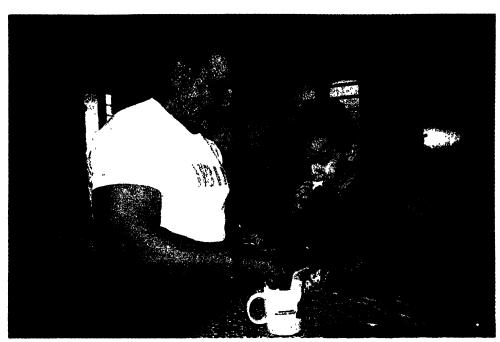
PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY



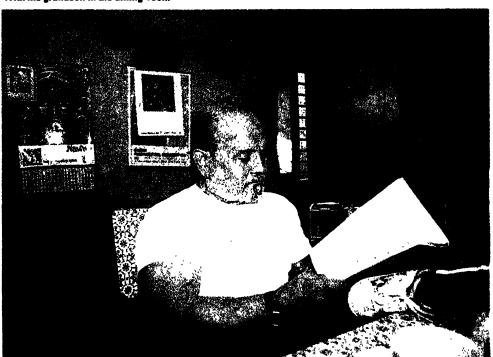
Keeping the rhythm. With wife Juthika playing the dholak at a kirtan session



At the local fish stall with his grandson 56



With his grandson in the dining room



It's leisure time. In his drawing-room, reading a book

great difficulty for him and his wife Juthika. He had to depend partly on his wife who earned some money by singing kirtans.

Manohar Aich accompanied her as a drummer. In fact, you will be surprised to know, he is a specialist in the dholak.

The money that they earned was paltry. In desperation, he joined a gym as a physical trainer. But the pay was poor. He finally decided to start his own gym. Thus, 'Studio-de-Physique' came into existence. But again, the monetary benefits

were minimal. So he gave private coaching to the boys from affluent families.

Later he joined a circus. His job profile was simple. Displaying his beautifully sculpted muscles to the rapt spectators. He was a

popular figure because of his size. Sometimes, he was also mistaken to be a clown. He stayed in the circus for close to ten years but the pay was better than what he was earning before.

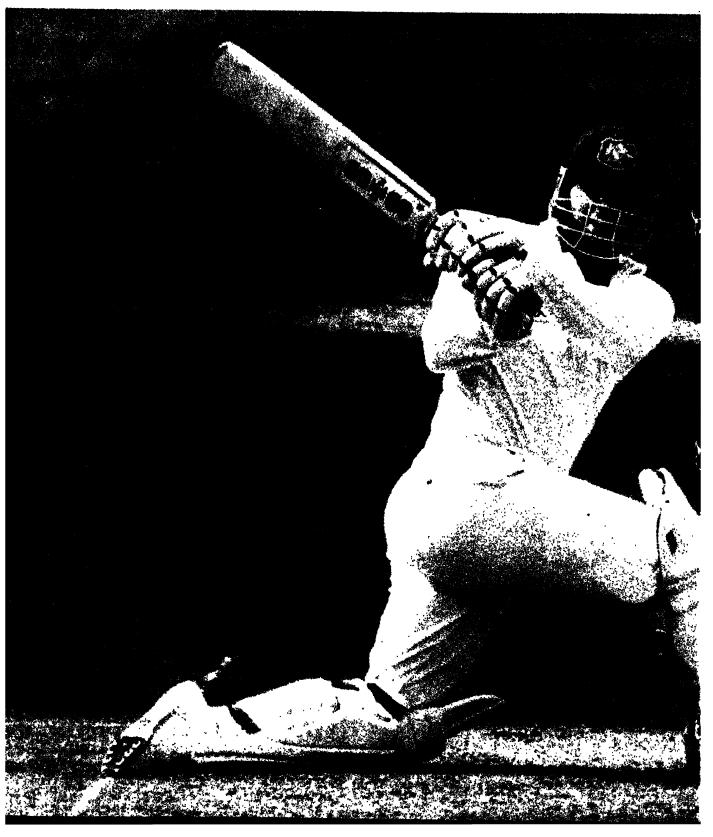
Years went by. Through sponsorships, he travelled far and wide. He has taken part in contests in countries like Romania. Hungary and Bulgaria. In 1955, he took part again in the Mr. Universe contest in London. This time, he came third. He tried once more in 1960 and again came third. Other career highlights: represented India as a coach of the Indian Arm Wrestling team to Australia in 1980 Was appointed as an **Advisor of the Sports** Authority of India (Eastern Zone) in Calcutta in '89 and 1990.

His financial prospects improved. So, he built a two-storeyed house in North Calcutta, which contained a newer version of the 'Studio-de-Physique'. Today, he is a relatively famous guy. Young people drop in to see him; they all look amazed when they see his rippling muscles. Some time ago, despairing of the corruption of our politicians, Manohar Aich ioined the Bharativa Janata Party. Sensing his popularity, he decided to stand for the Parliamentary elections. However, he lost. It was clear that voters preferred him as a 'Pocket Hercules' rather than as a politician.

Manohar Aich simply lives up to the adage: 'You are as old as you wanna be!'

PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

TIMETO



ALTER



MARK TAYLOR is low on confidence and match scores. There have been calls for him to be replaced

E may not be the most potent opener in the world, or even the most agile, but try telling Mark Taylor he only holds his place in the Australian one-day team because he is the captain, and you would have found yourself being dispatched quicker than a Carl Hooper long-hop.

Taylor has always been highly protective of his position at the helm; he never had any intentions ever of abdicating for anyone—no matter what certain critics may have thought of his methods in the past.

Since making his one day international debut in 1989-90, Taylor has been subjected to constant scrutiny over a perceived lack of lirepower in the early overs. Despite his sometimes undisputed status as one of the best in the business at the Test level, questions have been raised when the white ball and the coloured clothing came out. Does Taylor hit enough boundaries? Is he fast enough between wickets? Does he take enough risks?

Taylor recalls the criticisms by saying: "When I got the captaincy, I gave a lot of thought as to how I would play the one dayers and decided that I would be more confident and aggressive. There was talk of me being too slow and Australia needing two captains—myself for the Tests and someone else for the one day internationals."

At one point of time not so long ago, Taylor would have like to have thought that he had laid to rest any talk of Australia having two captains. Although statistics can sometimes be

Taylor's slump in form (he's just managed a fifty in his last 23 innings) has prompted critics to state that he should step down misleading, in the case of Taylor's assertion that he has been more effective since taking over from Border, the figures don't lie.

In 45 one day international innings prior to assuming the reins, Taylor scored 1416 runs at a strike rate of 57 By the end of the last World Cup, he had gone to the crease 48 times as skipper for 1611 runs at a rate of 63. And although it took Taylor 98 one day internationals to post his first century—which he got in India late last year—he was getting past fifty at a rate of better than once every four innings.

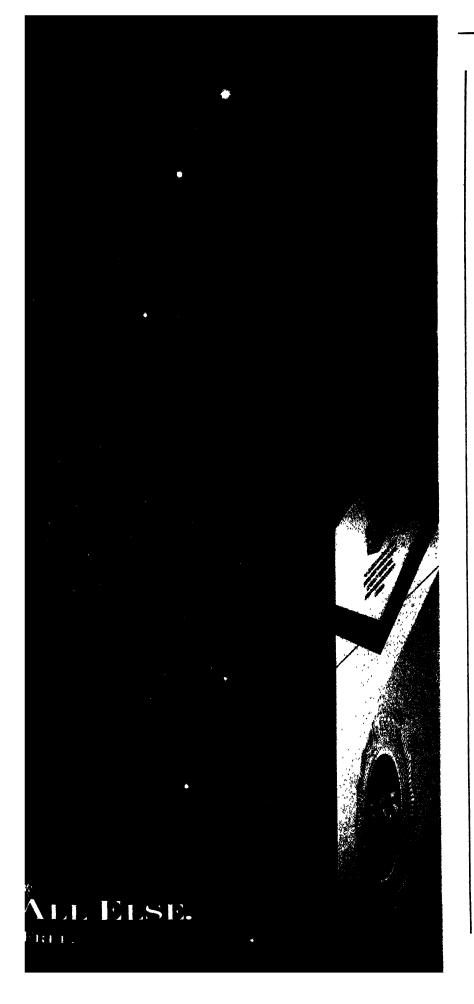


Several low scores later,
Taylor contemplated playing Sheffield Shield
cricket to get back his form. But he changed
his mind

But all that seems so distant now. The Australian captain's one day returns in his last seven one day games has been 29, 17, 28, 11, 26, 6 and 18 at an average of 19. The skipper's Test tallies read: 43, 36, 27, 16, 7 and 10.

It came to such a stage in the first week of this new year that when Taylor was again dismissed quite cheaply, he considered dropping himself to Sheffield Shield cricket to improve his form. But after some soul searching, he opted to stay and try to battle his way out of his form slump.





"At the moment I am not doing my job as a batsman," the 32-year-old left hander who has managed only one half century in his past 23 first class innings, said.

"I thought a bit about what would be best for myself and for Australian cricket. I still come back to the same thing—the best way to play is to get out there and face these guys and improve against them," he said after deciding to stick it out. But the fact that Taylor wasn't pulling his weight as a batsman—and an opener at that—gave rise to criticism that he was only in the side because he was the captain. Truly, if it was not for his inspirational leadership over the past two and a half years, he might have been axed by now.

Till the final match of the recent Carlton United series (which has replaced the Benson and Hedges series Down Under). Taylor's team had won only four of 18 one day matches from the World Cup final last March. They have a two-two Test record in that time.

Australia had lost five games on the trot and 13 out of their last 15 one day games in what was their worst sequence of results since one day cricket took off with the World Series in the late 1970s. They had bombed out of the finals of their home one day series for the first time in 17 years.

In the Test series, they led against the West Indies 2-1 and needed a draw at either Adelaide or Perth to retain the Frank Worrel Trophy which was won so convincingly under Taylor in the Carribean last year.

Talk of Taylor's sacking gained momentum because the Australian selectors had already controversially dispensed with opener Michael Slater and young No.3 batsman Ricky Ponting. It was clear that the selectors strict attitude played on the minds of all the Australian batsmen and more so their captain. "You always think about that (being dropped) whether you are captain or not," Taylor said of the dreaded axe. "I'm sure it has run through Steve Waugh's mind, even Mark Waugh's mind. It has run through my mind but then you try not



to dwell too much on it because that's negative thinking. The only thing that plays on my mind is that I'd like to hit the ball better. I'm not thinking. 'Hey if I fail today I'm out of the team.'"

Yet that is what might happen if Taylor were to fail in the two remaining Test matches to be played against the West Indies. Chances are that Australia may have a new captain for their coming tour of South Africa which is going to be followed by the ever-important Ashes tour later in the year.

If Taylor were sacked or stood down, either Steve Waugh or the present vice captain wicketkeeper Ian Healy would gain the ultimate addition to a cricketer's resume—the Test captaincy. Yet both of them

Another problem facing Taylor is that he is growing old. He will be 33 in March

having overcome similar obstacles in their long Test careers have stood by their captain. Speaking at a charity game where Taylor dropped himself to number eleven, Waugh said of his captain, "He's played at this level for ten years, so he knows what it is all about."

Healy admitted that everyone in the dressing room was conscious of the captain's problems. "You do as much as you can for that person, but no matter how nice, positive or helpful others are, you've got to go and do it yourself."

Past Australian captains too have been in the same predicament as

Taylor. Kim Hughes quit in tears in 1984-85; Greg Chappell toughened it out after a string of ducks during 1981-82. Both have rallied to Taylor's side as have many others. Hughes said the selectors should immediately confirm Taylor's appointment for both the tours to South Africa and England.

"The chairman of selectors should go straight to Mark Taylor and tell him he is under no pressure to perform," Kim Hughes said. "If Taylor was lost to the Australian team, there would be long-term ramifications to cricket in this country." It was during the series against the West Indies that Hughes stepped down so he knows what he is talking about when he claims that the West Indians are proven masters of



Taylor may not be scoring that much but there is a general consensus that he is an inspirational leader

targetting opposition captains.

"They invented the tactic of dismantling the confidence of an opposition captain," says Hughes. "It becomes especially effective when the press and the rest of the nation start questioning their captain."

Dennis Lillee doesn't agree. "Mark Taylor has done a great job since taking over from Allan Border," he says, "but there must come a time when the selectors will run out of patience. Ever since I started playing the game, the captain has always had to pull his weight, Taylor simply isn't delivering the goods at the moment and another failure could bring memories of Bill Lawry's unceremonious dumping in 1970-71."

What should be done now? Some would like to promote the name of Healy for the stand-in captain, a position he held during the tour of Sri Lanka last year. Still others would like to see Shane Warne take over, since they believe that Warne is the future captain of Australia. Warne's only previous experience has been as captain of his school team. But his state selectors, perhaps forseeing things to come made him the captain of Victoria for the 1996-97 season.

What must be kept in mind is that Australia are only a third of the way through a staggering itinerary which includes 24 Tests and more than 40 one day matches in 20 months. At the end of those 20 months in March 1998, Taylor will be 33, Healy a month short of 34 and the Waugh brothers going on 32. Warne will be 28 and experienced enough to take over.

Perhaps keeping this in mind, the Australian selectors might not opt for a stand-by captain for the next two tours but continue with the man everybody knows as 'Tubby'. Unless, of course, Taylor's next seven innings resemble his home phone number. Then of course it will be a different story. And a different captain for Australia.

Andy O'Brien, Australia

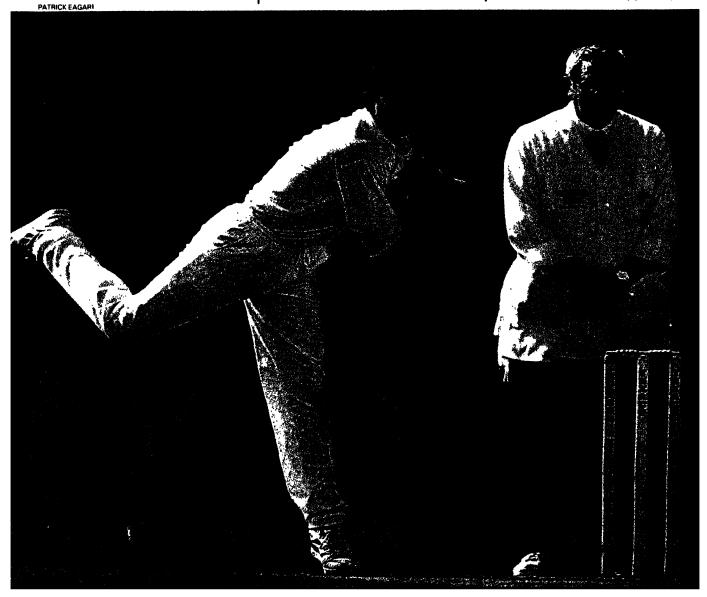
TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ, Pakistan's answer to Shane Warne, is blossoming out to be one of the world's top off-spinners

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA

AKISTAN batsman
Inzamam-ul Haq was treating
a group of net bowlers with
near contempt the other day
at the WACA in Perth when he was

foiled by a ghost in the machine. Young off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq trundled in off his dainty run up and seemed to float up harmless looking deliveries and more easy pickings for

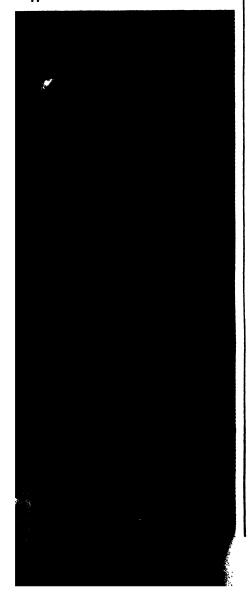


the Big Bear.

But Inzamam played for the spin into the body; the ball kicked ever-so-slightly the opposite way, beating him hopelessly. He looked at the bowler with a rueful smile and rocked back his head in disbelief. Put it down as another victim for Saqlain's unique away-kicker, which is the precious and genuinely mysterious weapon of a young bowler going places.

Last season, this strange ball made Saqlain the highest one-day wicket taker for the calendar year in 1996. This season, in Australia, he has

Saglain Mushtag in action against England during the Texaco Trophy in Edgbaston last year. He has a mystery ball that even his own team's betsmen can't handle, let alone, the opposition



deceived many Australian and West Indian batsmen. All batsmen played for the ball coming into the body, but somehow it left them. Television replays that focused on Saqlain's bowling action have shown nothing different. Though the purpose of the ball is to confuse rival batsmen, the greatest testimony to its quality is that Saqlain can beat his own teammates with the delivery at the nets.

Even captain Wasim Akram-who maintains that Saqlain is the best off spinner in the world now-admits with a smile that Saglain will not even let him in on the secret. Since Saglain speaks little English (Akram fills in for him at the man of the match award ceremonies), the Australian press has had very little success in exposing Saglain's secret. When asked to show the press contingent how he bowled it, a smiling Saglain said, "Okay, I show you" and made a vague flicking gesture with his fingers which left everybody even more in the dark....the mystery remains.

lan Chappell calls him Pakistan's answer to Shane Warne. "Akram brings him on whenever there is a challenge," he says. Saqlain is yet more proof (as are many of his teammates) that Pakistan have a rich history of producing gifted young cricketers. It is the Pakistani bowling which in recent years has been the reason why they can never be discounted and why they are on top of the pile.

No other country can lay claim to possessing such a varied world class attack: two of the best fast bowlers in Akram and Waqar Younis, a leg spinner of high quality in Mustaq Ahmed and now an off spinner of immense talent in Saglain.

"It's been a long time since we've seen a finger spinner of this class," says Bill Lawry. There is no doubt that this young off spinner (whose date of birth is recorded as November 27, 1976) is quickly gaining acceptance as the best in his craft. Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies have no off spinner worth talking about. India shifts between Aashish Kapoor and Rajesh Chauhan, England have a

modest toiler called Robert Croft and South Africa have the eccentric Pat Symcox who is better known for throwing an Indian autograph hunter in the pool than any bowling deed.

Saglain's high action helps him to impart vicious spin on the ball and with his excellent control, it stands him in good stead in the limited-overs game. Prior to this tour, Saqlain had taken 51 wickets in 28 one day games at a healthy average of 20.96.(at the time of going to press). Saglain ironically struggles to get a Test berth for Pakistan yet he is emerging as the star of a shallow well of off spin talent around the world. And he's no rabbit with the bat either: he shared in a Test world record eighth-wicket partnership of 313 with Akram against Zimbabwe in October last year.

Saqlain is one of a family of six children and the son of a government worker in Lahore. He took up off spinning only six years ago because his club captain bowled it and he liked his style.

Saqlain claims he developed the mystery ball himself and it took a lot of practice to master it. It is the dream of every sportsman, certainly every bowler, to possess a weapon no one else boasts of. Cricket's most famous trick ball, the googly or 'Bosie', was invented by England all rounder Bernard Bosanquet around the turn of the century, after years of experimentation.

Almost as famous as the googly was the unusual spin patented by Australia's Jack Ivorson, who used a bent middle finger to push—almost flick—rather than bowl the ball. Ivorson, who later committed suicide by shooting himself, invented his unusual method during service in New Guinea in World War II. There was so much mystery surrounding Ivorson that television news reels blackened out his wrist action in shots sent to England before the Ashes series of 1950-51.

Saqlain has never heard of Bosanquet or Ivorson and has never been taught.

He has done it all his way...and he has done it very well ●

UNIL Gavaskar, in his comments on 'Star Sports', after India's humiliating series loss against South Africa said it was due to a "lack of commitment on the part of the players." That was a sad thing to hear

Imagine not having commitment while playing for the country. Imagine not having commitment when 900 crores of people are depending on you to represent the country with pride, with professional skill and a never-say-die attitude. Imagine not having commitment when to represent the country is one of the biggest and rarest thrills a man can experience in his lifetime. Only a select few-through destiny, a gift of talent—get the chance; millions have to watch from the sidelines. So, one should be surprised to be told that there is no feeling of commitment.

Yet, I don't blame the players. I blame our national mind-set. Players, when they go abroad, unconsciously express the mind-set of the country. This is our mind-set: we are a defeatist people; we do not have a fighting spirit; we blame everything on fate and karma; most of the time, we wallow in self pity; we suffer from a deep inferiority complex; we tend to press the panic button very quickly; when push comes to shove in international competitions, we give up quickly and painlessly.

We screw up our teamwork with our endless intrigues and sly politicking. We spend most of our time back-stabbing, gossiping and currying up to people in power. We rarely reward people if they work hard and produce results. Most of the time, the guy with the better contacts, the better PR, the more powerful godfather, is the one who gets the chance, the break, the slot in the team.

The quota system has more or less destroyed the concept of the best talent representing the country.

Selectors play one player against the other, thinking of his region, (and his vote bank) rather that the national interest. Had the best, the most talented, the most experienced players been chosen for the Test series



Soursy Ganguly: overnight, his fans abandoned him in Bengal

against South Africa? The answer is obviously no. Yet, this quota system still exists, despite its awesome flaw, as we head towards the next millenium.

Trevor Quirk, the South African commentator, expressed surprise at the existence of such a system. This system does not exist in any top world class society. Why should it keep existing in our country? We are cutting our nose to spite our face. In short, we are all to blame for the debacle in South Africa.

The other flaws that we have as a people: our quick propensity to criticise and humiliate people. Even Sourav Ganguly, Calcutta's hero was roundly abused when he got out cheaply at the Eden Gardens. A man sitting next to me said sarcastically,"I can see some yellow in his trousers. Wait till he goes to South Africa. He'll be finished there." Spectators all around broke out into loud, mocking laughter; a couple of young men hurled some choice Bengali expletives. This was an amazing turnaround of behaviour. Two months ago, he had been the great

hero in Bengal. Now there was unbridled derision.

There is so much of contempt in our evaluation of players, especially the young, up-coming ones. This again, is a national mind-set. We don't respect people who are coming up. We abuse them, ignore them and treat them like pariahs. Even the selectors behave in the same manner. They chop and change the team every now and then. Young players suffer the most in this random selection and sacking. (But if, by fluke or chance or sheer determination, a player becomes big, then overnight, our's and the selectors' tongues are out. 'Yes Sir,' 'No Sir,' 'Three bags full Sir' is our attitude.)

This constant villification and abuse saps the morale of a player. It saps his commitment; it saps his concentration; it saps his natural game. He is not sure of anything. If he performs well, there is no guarantee that he will be chosen. If he plays badly there is a danger of complete oblivion. Atul Bedade's name comes to mind.

How can there be 100% commitment in such a situation? Underneath any sort of commitment, there is worry, nagging, persistent worry about what might happen in the future.

What is needed is a change in our mind-set. This is what we should do: become more tolerant; be encouraging of young talent; persist with them even if they fail, once, twice, three times. We need to dismantle the quota system; to go easy on our virulent criticism; to develop a society based on talent and merit and not on 'pull' and 'contacts'; to stop wallowing in self-pity; to resist blaming it all on karma and fate.

The moment we do this, and the moment we think positively (and not think cunningly or slyly or shrewdly or like a sycophant), debacles like the one in South Africa will become rare. Who knows there might even come a time when we won't be able to understand what the term 'debacle' means?

Shevlin Sebastian

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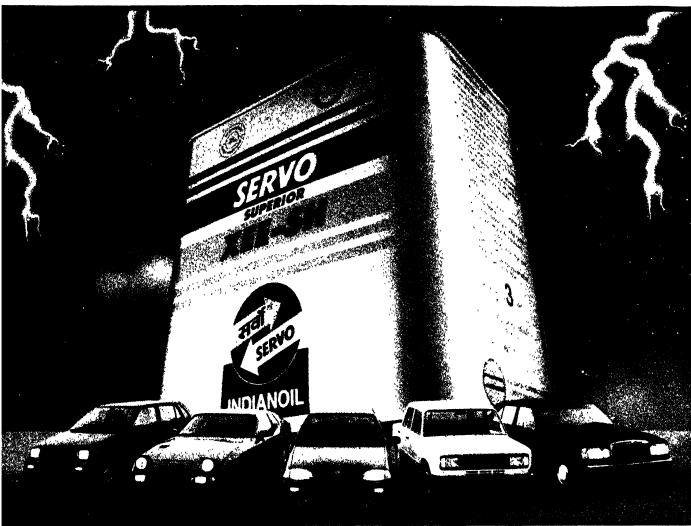
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At 16, MARTINA HINGIS is the youngest winner of a Grand Slam title this century



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TEEN STAR!

At 16, Martina Hingis is the youngest winner of a Grand Slam event this century

FIRE AND GUTS!

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Michael Chang has reached the Top Ten in world tennis through sheer tenacity and hard work

MEN AT WORK!

1. .

Can team boss Tom Wilkinson and Damon Hill make the TWI Arrows a competitive outfit this season?







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MANAGERS ARE UNDER STRESS IN ENGLISH FOOTBALL

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GURBUX SINGH

THE ENIGMA: CURTLY AMBROSE

OKSANA BAIUL: DREAMS DIE FIRST

FREEWHEELING

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF MARTINA HINGIS BY ACTION PLUS. INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF CURTLY AMBROSE BY COLORSPORT



MAGIC G

At 16, MARTINA HINGIS is the youngest Grand Slam winner this century

> BY ANDY O'BRIEN, **AUSTRALIA**

ITH all the climatic changes that hit Melbourne Park during the 1997

Australian Open, the only constant around the courts was the flashing smile of Martina Hingis. And by the end of it all, the baby-faced smiling assassin had breathed new life into women's tennis.

The 16-year-old took less than an hour in the final to become the youngest grand slam single's winner

the youngest grand slam winner, winning Wimbledon in 1887 when she was 15 years and ten months old. Hingis in becoming the youngest-ever Open Era winner set her sights at the top: the throne of Steffi Graf.

When Hingis' final opponent Mary Pierce won in Australia in 1995 there were similar expressions that Steffi Graf's long-time tour domination was under threat. But prophesy never came to fruition. This time though, the challenger, long touted as capable this century. Charlotte Lottie Dodd was of dethroning Graf, is just 16 years and



ACTION PLUS

Martina Hingis: underneath her sweet demeanour lurks a fierce determination and a talent that is going to get better and better in the near future.

four months old. In tennis terms though, she plays with the cunning of a tour veteran. Perhaps that has something to do with her mother Melanie who named her daughter after Martina Navratilova and handed her a tennis racquet when she was only two.

And even though Hingis might be the youngest grand slam winner this century, the wait was almost too much for her mother-cum-coach. Moments after her daughter raised her arms above her head, that cherubic smile saying so much about the moment, Melanie Molitor

climbed over the rail from her elevated seat and bounced onto centre court. She stumbled as she hit the ground and a security guard, apparently unaware of the identity of the interloper, moved forward only to be brushed aside as Hingis swept past him and wrapped her arms around Molitor. A kiss on the cheek, an exchange of words. An embrace. The true meaning of which cannot be translated to anyone outside it.

Hingis was born to tennis and her mother had been central in the destiny which last month carried her to a special piece of history.

"I'd like to thank her for 14 years practise, maybe 15 years," Hingis said laughing at the trophy presentation. "Almost as soon as I could walk, she pushed a tennis racquet into my hand, I thank her."

Hingis was playing competitive tennis by the time she was four. She can still remember her first match. She was whipped 6-2, 6-0 but "I had a couple of break points."

Doubtless she did. Against Pierce in the final she also had a few break points. This time she converted them and it meant considerably more than those she squandered in a junior event at her local club in her birthplace in Slovakia.

Against Pierce, there were no signs of the jitters that many pundits suggested would be the only way this bubbly teen could lose this title. This was not the performance of your average school-aged teenager. Mind you, Hingis is anything but average. A precocious talent who at 12 became the youngest junior French Open winner in 1993, there has only been one objective in her life: to be the best player in the world. She was restricted by the stringent Women's Tennis Association (WTA) laws which were enforced to protect young girls from burn-out.

There had been a long line of victims and the WTA moved to reduce the mortality rate. Hingis, who was seven when she moved to Switzerland with her mother, argues that the most prominent cases of burn-out involved Americans. She

pointed out that she does not play under the Stars and Stripes banner. Different pressures, culture and expectations.

Certainly there is no hint of tension when she plays the game. Indeed, she assumes the persona of what the world press has now dubbed as "The smiling assassin" her belligerent ground strokes belying her innocent expressions. When she broke Pierce in the final with a sizzling backhand down the line to lead 4-0, she broke out her teethy grin. More seasoned campaigners would have tried to lock

I INGIS, who was seven when she moved to Switzerland with her mother, argues that the most prominent cases of burn-out involved Americans. She points out that she does not play under the Star and Stripes banner.

their emotions inside. But Hingis is too young and too pure to bother with the mind games. She just plays. And she plays. And she plays better than most.

With the established stars of the women's game looking for flights out of Australia, a Hingis win never looked in doubt. It was a special moment for the No.4 seed when she held the trophy aloft content in the knowledge that she would be the No.2 in the world behind Steffi Graf. It was a good end to a good month Down Under.

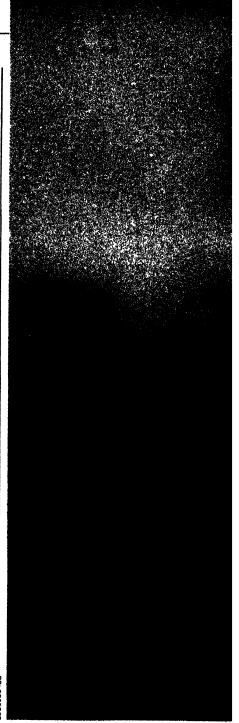
Hingis also took the women's doubles final with Natasha Zvereva, becoming the first person to do so since another Martina—of the Navratilova variety—did so in 1985. A

COVERSTORY

fortnight before the Australian Open she beat Jennifer Capriati in the Sydney International final, making her third trip to Australia worth over \$700,000.

In the same week, she signed a multi-million clothing deal with Sergio Tacchini. Any wonder she positively glowed at her post-victory press conference in Melbourne. "I have been playing great tennis this year and I want to keep that going." When asked whether the grand slam win had whetted her appetite for more, Hingis said, "We'll see about Paris, Wimbledon and then the other slams. Maybe it is a little steep, but I would love to make number one in the world. I think I have a pretty good chance. Yes, I think so why not?" As if





her victory itself was not a clear warning to Graf, who was ousted in the fourth round, that the battle is on. Hingis wants the top spot and this petite smiling girl who so enchanted the Australian Open this year usually gets what she wants.

In the course of the Australian

Open fortnight, apart from becoming

Flush with money and fame, Hingis has to keep a cool temperament in order to have a long career



the youngest-ever grand slam winner in 110 years, she fell off a horse while riding—her favourite source of relaxation—she promised to buy the same horse if she won the tournament. She of course did both. Doubtless she had some change left over from her \$542,000 winners' purse after she purchased Magic Girl.

Meanwhile, the people in charge of running the women's tour are pretty pleased with themselves. Some

people are already seeing this Australian Open as a change of guard, led by Hingis. The troubled Graf turns 28 in June and each day sees her move closer to retirement. Seles, 23, doesn't seem to have fully come back from that 27-month enforced absence from the tour.

The winds of change in Melbourne have blown fresh air over women's tennis with fresh faces like Kimberley Po, Dominique van Roost, Sabine Applemans and Irene Spirlea of Romania all making it to the quarter-finals of this year's first grand slam tournament. None of course has the profile of Hingis, who is fast becoming the most popular player on the tour. And as long as she continues to consider the world as an oyster, more and more fresh horizons will open up to her, until the time comes when she replaces Steffi Graf as the pearl of women's tennis.

O L A A D L



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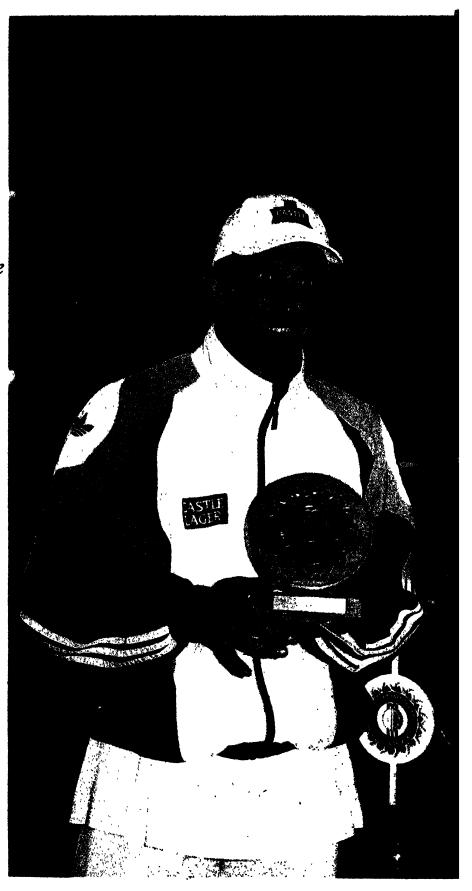
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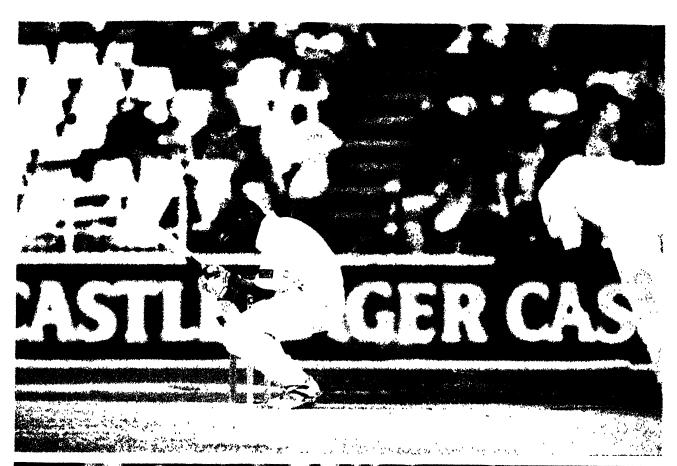
Cricket in South Africa is a different ball game altogether. KAMAL JULKA presents evidence about how it differs from cricket played in other countries



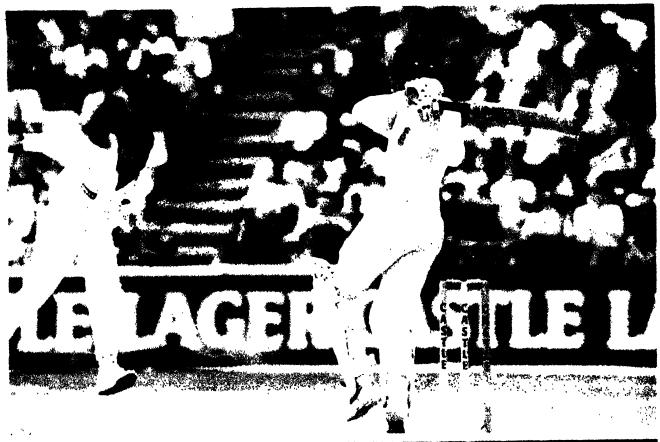
(Right) It's been a hard season's work for Allan Donald, the spearhead of the South African bowling attack. Very familiar with the wickets at home, he had no problems in sending many recognized Indian batsmen back to the dressing room. Small wonder then that he was elected the Man-of-The-Series

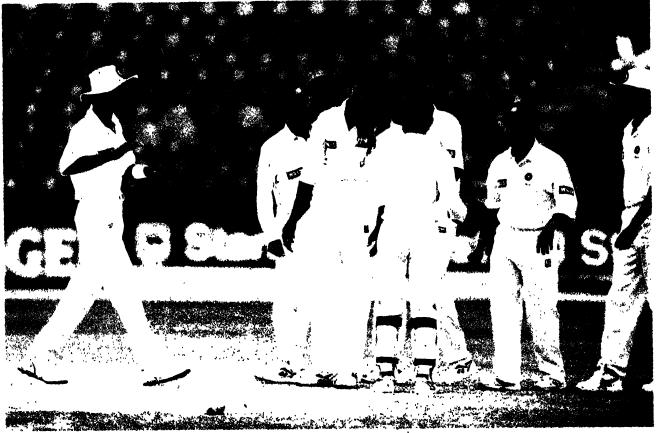
(Facing page) Karma: what you give, is what you get. Venkatesh Prasad huris one down at Hansie Cronje (top) who takes evasive action. (Bettom) Getting a taste of their own medicine. Indian keeper Nayan Mongia goes down on his knees to a snorter of a delivery from Shaun Pallock











Left

Shaun Pollock in South Africa was good both with the ball, and with the bat. Here Srinath realises that when Pollock is in a punishing mood, a bowler can do precious little to contain him

Right

When the going gets tough, Daryll Cullinan gets going. With South Africa on the verge of defeat in the final Test, in strode Cullinan and scored a brilliant 122 n.o. It was this epic performance that saved the day for South Africa. Cullinan is shown here acknowledging the crowd after his century

Bottom Left

If Allan Donald and Co. wreaked havoc on the Indian batsmen, then the Indian frontline bowlers Srinath and Prasad were not far behind. In the concluding Castle Lager Test, Srinath notched up seven victims and is seen here being congratulated by his teammates

Bottom

It is said that Lady Luck and the groundsmen did India in in the third Test. At the Wanderers in Johannesburg, after losing time due to rain, India seemed to be staring at victory, when the match had to be called off for insufficient light









OFF THE FIELD

A train at a cricket stadium?
Well, that's what they have at the
members stand in the Griqualand
supporters club in
Bloemfoentein. (From right)
Indian cricketers Saba Karim,
Rahul Dravid, W.V. Raman,
Ganesh, Nayan Mongia, Sunil
Dev (manager) and Venkatpathy
Raju soak in some South African
hospitality

Right

For a South African cricketer fitness is top priority and Paul Adams is no different. After a practice session Adams finds out how he fered in that department



Bottom Left

Dave Richardson (right) shares a joke with the captain of the Pakistan Under-19 team captain (middle) and Rahul Dravid at a narty



AS. AND CO.

Right

Sunii Gavaskar has a few words of praise and some tips to offer to Sourav Ganguly before the third Test. It inspired Ganguly to play a fine knock in the final Test and he even ended up taking a couple of wickets.



Right

Blue skies, and a fair bit of wind, are ideal conditions for kite flying. A South African supporter decided to give the cricket a break, and go in for some milder form of excitement

Top Left

The softer side of Brian McMillan. Here he is pictured in the Hotel Sandton Sun in Johannesburg with his wife and son Joshua



Alt's fair in love and....cricket.
(From left): Haley with her
boyfriend Adam Bacher and
Lence Klusener's girlfriend.
Shaun Pollock (extreme right)
said that he had no girlfriend to
hug. So Klusener (second from
right) gives a compensatory hug



Hailing from Bengal, Sourav Ganguly was more than a match for his teammates when it came to playing football. When it came to playing cricket, Ganguly held his own against the South Africana



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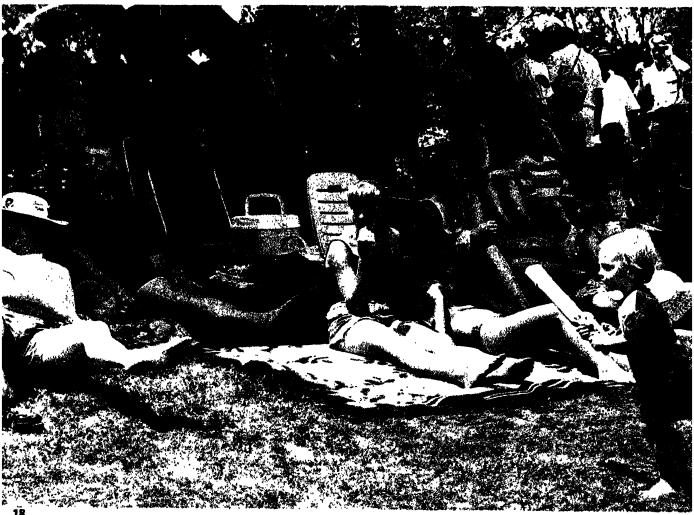
So be aware. And be smart.

Who knows the name in the next ad may be yours!

Barbeque and beers. The South African cricket fans certainly had their priorities right. With the South African cricket on a roll, they didn't have much to worry about



Catch them young: A toddler inspired by the action in the middle, decided that it was about time he perfected a few strokes. So there you are...another Cullinan in the making



Sorry State

NOVY KAPADIA has written a very perceptive article on Indian hockey, (Sportsworld 1-14 Jan. '97).

Coming to the sorry state of affairs of Indian hockey, what can one say?

In any case, we should not give up hope. It would suffice to note that we need greater motivation, greater commitment, better financial rewards, an astute handling of the players, better organisation and above all, a killer-instinct.

The crux of the problem is how to achieve them! That, gentlemen, takes us back to the proverbial square one.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.

A Specialist's Job

PENING the innings is a specialist's job. It is an important one at that, and should be left to a specialist to carry out. One innings of 100-odd does not make Nayan Mongia an opener. In any case, wicket-keeping is a tough and demanding job; it would not help him to have to open as well. One would imagine that the team management could have figured this one out for themselves.

Ajay Jadeja could have been a good candidate for the position of the opener. I wonder why the selectors are not giving him a chance. It is possible that if India persists with Mongia as an opener, they might end up short of a keeper one of these days. All said and done, too much is being asked of him. It's high time Sachin Tendulkar started giving a thought to this problem of the opening slot.

PAYAL DHAR, New Delhi.



Karate Champs

West Bengel's Smita Kheria came second in the 15-17 age group in the second Asian-Pacific Gojukai karate-do championships held in Kumite. Picture shows Ms.Kheria (centre) flanked by overall winner Francis Pemfer (left) and Sharon Marriot, both from Australia

Wonder Boy

THE interview with Leander Paes by Shevlin Sebastian (Sportsworld, 18 Dec, '96) was really nice. In fact, the boy is entitled to the hype he is receiving. When the wonder boy beats others hands down, it

Oh Azhari

Rarticle 'Cool';
(Sportsworld, 1-14 Jan. 1997)has wonderfully depicted the contrast in the lifestyle of Mohammad Azharuddin before and after assuming the hot seat of Indian cricket. It's true that the introverted flyderabadi transformed himself into a controversial character after becoming the captain. Actually, he was not born with the quality to lead.

The charisms and the scumen for captaincy was just not there.

proves that he has arrived in the hard world of men's tennis.

The competition is very tough out there but he has come out triumphs against all odds; it goes to prove that talent survives the toughest of competition. Keep up the good work!

AMIT BHATTACHARYA, Tinsukia.

He was also poor in man management. The Navjot Singh Sidhu episode in England was ample testimony. The statistics reveal that Azharuddin is the most successful Indian captain. But statistics do not always tell the full story.

Azhar and Wadekar's designer pitches brought many home victories. These victories created a false vanity in Azhar's psyche. The humble boy became arrogant. This arrogance was as conspicuous as his inability to handle the media whenever he tasted adversity.

CHINMOY ROY.

MICHAEL CHANG is the antithesis of the modern-day tennis player who relies solely on power. Blessed with huge reserves of perseverance and courage, he more than makes up for his lack of build

ROM the soles of his Reeboks, to the top of his cap, Michael Chang stands just 175 cm. And they say that he has a serve which would not send a shudder through the body of an average club player. For all that, he is ranked No. 2 in the world and is by all considerations one of the more consistent players on the circuit today. Michael Chang has shown that there is more to top grade tennis than height and a booming serve. He might be the antithesis of the modern-game prototype of angular men with bullet serves, but there is one thing which flows freely through the Chang body. Desire. Chang himself believes his greatest tennis asset is dogged persistence. He also revealed during the recent Australian Open that it is not in his make- up to take the foot off the accelerator.

"I feel regardless of any situation, whether it is a tour match, an exhibition or grand slam match, that when you get a chance to get an edge over any player you take advantage of it," the Chinese American said on his way to beating both Boris Becker and Pete Sampras to win a tournament in Melbourne just before the Australian Open. "I try not to look at things as an exhibition," Chang said as he rounded off his preparations for the first grand slam of the year. "I just look at it as another match and another

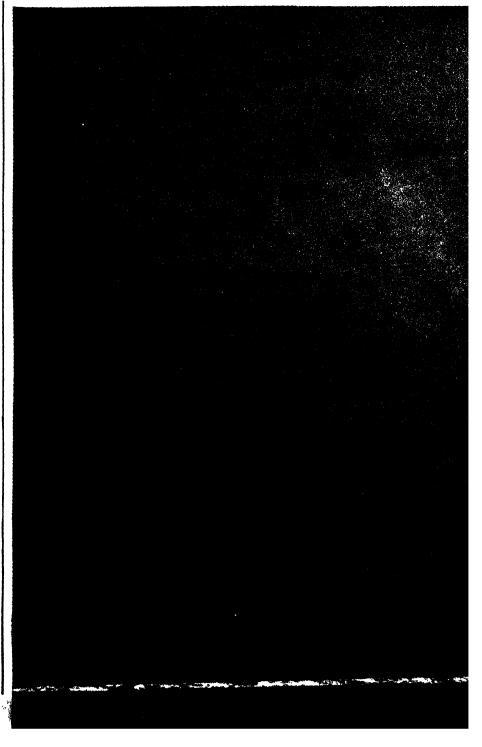
Though Michael Chang won his first grand slam on clay he's equally good on any surface 20

FIRE AND

opportunity to beat the best players in the world." And then he gave out the secret, "If one word sums up my career it is perseverance."

Chang exploded onto the world

scene in 1989, when he won the French Open to become the youngest ever men's grand slam champion at 17 years and three months. If Chang was expecting that to be the start of bigger



GUTS!

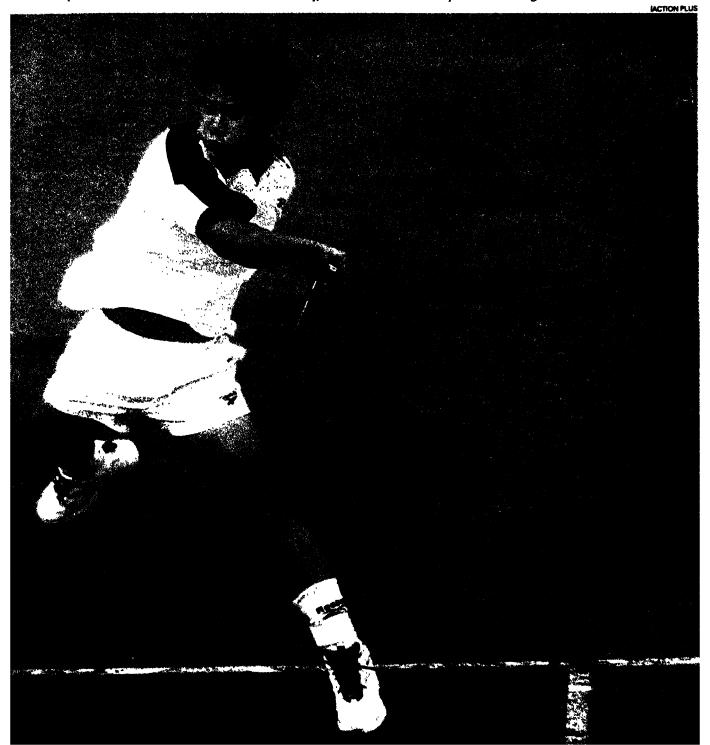
FROM ANDY O' BRIEN, AUSTRALIA

and better things, he was right. But no more grand slam successes were added to his Curriculum Vitae. He has been close to the summit on three attempts. He lost the 1995 French

Open final to Thomas Muster, and was deprived of the Australian Open title last year by Boris Becker. At the 1996 US Open it was long-time rival Pete Sampras who stood in his way

with a breath-taking performance. It was a quick and merciful kill, Sampra striding to his sole major in the year in straight sets.

Chang at 24 could have been





excused if he thought that he would never again relive that precious moment at Roland Garros eight years ago—but he has not allowed those negative thoughts to put him off. "It is not in my personality to be bothered by those losses," says the man who travels with his brother as his coach and his mother. "I'm able to pick myself up again pretty quickly."

The chunky baseliner simply put his

He may not have a booming serve but Chang is one of the more complete players in the circuit today

shoulder to the wheel in a bid to expedite the end of his grand slam torment. Lengthy weight and gym sessions were added to an already demanding practise regime and he was convinced that his time would come.

"The French in 89 was something that was obviously very special and something that was very, very unexpected for me, for everyone around me and for the tennis community," he said. "I felt that I learnt a great deal from that and from the year after that. I feel that my game has been improving little by little and that's important. The last couple of years I've had some chances to win some pretty big tournaments but I've come up a little short. I'm No.2 in the world now, last year I was at number six, so I guess I have improved and guys are telling me not to stop now."

While the rest of the world blasts their way to victory Chang's trademark is: "fight hard." He says of his approach to the game: "I'm constantly learning. I've been trying different things for the past three or four years. I've tried to become a little more aggressive and it has been a gradual process. I know for a fact I'm not going to be a clear- cut power player. There will be times when I know I can rely on power, but it is not the focus of my game. I'm very much a thinking man's player. I feel like God gave me a good set of legs so I can move well around the court and I can use that for offensive purposes." Chang has worked on his serve as well to neutralise the power game of his opponents and the number of aces he serves now would not have been imagined a few years ago. But his philosophy has always been different. "There are guys who hit harder, but I feel that there are always ways to neutralise that power. Sometimes I feel that I'm hitting up against a brick wall. Now I'm feeling that less and less. There are times when guys are able to pound the ball so hard that it is difficult to get the ball back



effectively."

In a way, Chang has always been underestimated as a player and as a star. It is only in Asia that the Nevada born Chinese player gets the attention he deserves. In Australia during the

Open, he won the support of the Asian community in Melbourne and showed his appreciation by signing autographs long after his matches, writing their names on the autograph sheets of fans. The man they call "the

Solidity and a never-say-die attitude has been the hallmark of Chang's career

Evangelist with the tennis racquet" took time to write a message with every autograph.

Yet respect is something that hasn't come easy to Michael Chang. When John McEnroe was on the comeback campaign in the early 1990's, he used Chang's French Open victory as an inspiration. He believed that if Chang could win a major, anything was possible. Chang still must contend to a degree with that level of disrespect despite being at the pinacle of world tennis. In fact Chang would have been the No.1 player in the world had he won the last US Open.

It probably comes back to a game which is based on tenacity rather than the booming serve of Goran Ivanisevic, the svelte movement of Sampras, or the volleying precision of Stefan Edberg. "I am not worried so much about having people's respect," Chang says vehemently. "When you want someone's respect you have to go out and earn it, but it doesn't matter to me so much what people think."

As for what McEnroe had to say, he says, "I agree with John totally. The way I look at it is that normally things are nearly impossible, but I have a great deal of faith in what the Lord can do. With him I feel like anything is possible. Even in my position I don't get discouraged being a little bit smaller than a lot of other guys because God's given me this talent and I'm here for a purpose. In many ways it's good because people are able to relate to me and say it doesn't always need to be the bigger guy or the stronger guy who wins. It could give a lot of people the confidence to try something and not be afraid to fall short."

Michael Chang walks tall near the top of world tennis. In a system that embraces talented children and then exhausts them, he is a stayer, a man who claws his way back from being down, a player who has learnt to turn on the power and who is tough enough to beat the opposition and win.

ON A GOOD (SOMETIMES STICKY) WICKET

AKISTAN cricket is indeed lucky that it has had the services of talented cricketers throughout its history. This has been especially true in the choice of wicket-keepers. Players like Imtiaz Ahmed,

Wicket-keeper Moin Khan watches Alec Stewart hit another four during his 170 in the second Cornhill Test against England at Leeds last year. Critics feel that Moin Khan is a better batsman than wicket-keeper

MOIN KHAN, Pakistan's former captain and current wicket-keeper has an intense but healthy rivalry with Rashid Latif, who is equally good behind the stumps...



Wasim Bari and Salim Yousuf come to mind.

In the Nineties, things changed dramatically when two quality wicket-keppers, Rashid Latif and Moin Khan arrived on the scene. They are now acknowledged as being two of the best wicket-keepers in Pakistan at present. It has also been generally agreed that Moin is a better batsman while Rashid is the better wicket-keeper.

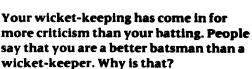
What has made the rivalry between them more interesting was that they were also the best of friends. But now, there is talk that their friendship is being eroded by the intense rivalry for the wicket-keeper's slot.

Excerpts from the interview:

What are your feelings in playing in an environment where the country has two wicket-keepers boasting of equal ability? It's obvious that if the competition is stiff, one enjoys playing to the best of one's ability. Both

of us have been playing for a long time now, and when I am out of the team, Rashid is in

and vice versa. In 1992, when I was out and Rashid was played, he played so well that it really became difficult for me to get back into the team. After that, the ins and outs became a regular matter. I've really had to work very hard, and God has rewarded my efforts.



I don't think that is the case. At the time of my first ouster from the team, even the media had pointed out that while my wicket-keeping was okay, I wasn't in form as far as my batting was concerned. Actually, with the pressures of present-day cricket, it is very difficult to be equally good in both departments.

When I concentrate on one, the other suffers. However, I realise that if I want to continue playing for Pakistan, I will have to be good in both. I'm working on that.

But what is more important for a wicket-keeper?

Wicket-keeping, of course. Because it is an altogether different field...good batting is an added bonus, especially in one day cricket. If you are a good wicket keeper, you can cement your place in the team, irrespective of your batting abilities.

It is said that Rashid Latif and you are

"All I know is that a player has to keep on working hard...the rewards will come. As for making way for anyone else, l do not believe in it....even if it is my best friend. This is professional cricket and it isn't done."—Moin Khan

very good friends, and that he vacated the slot in the team for you.

This is a mere rumour because no one vacates a national slot for anyone. By the grace of Allah, throughout my career, I have never been unfit, except, unfortunately when I was captaining the team in Sharjah....whereas Rashid has been unfit many a time....because of which I was given chances, and proved myself. Despite that, after scoring a century against Australia, and getting four catches as well, I was out of the team and Rashid was made vice captain.

All I know is that a player has to keep on working hard...the rewards will come. As for making way for anyone else, I do not believe in it....even if it is my best friend. This is professional cricket and it isn't done.

You have also been tipped as the future captain of the Pakistan team...how was the previous experience as captain?

Just great....we played two, won two, but unfortunately, I got chicken pox and couldn't play anymore. I was really disappointed about that as I was performing well.

But after Sharjah, when Sri Lanka came to Pakistan, why were you removed? Only the Board can answer that. They know the game better than me.

But you too seem to know the game pretty well...we keep hearing your voice from behind the stumps.

Well, a wicket-keeper is in a very good position to see the game. I am not the only one who keeps advising the players....they all do it.

Has the Pakistan team's fielding improved lately?

One reason for our poor fielding are our hard grounds where the players are scared of diving to stop balls for fear of injury. Anyway, I think that our new players are all very good fielders.

What about the umpiring...that too comes in for a lot of flak?

Yes, there is a lot of criticism, but we must remember that they have just a fraction of a second in which to reach a decision. It's easy to comment after watching TV replays. There are mistakes, and I don't think there is ever a deliberate desire to give wrong decisions.

Interviewed by Mansoor Ali Baig .
COURTESY THE PAKISTAN CRICKETER





NEW DIRECTIONS

The start of a new National League and the dramatic increase in prize money is changing the face of Indian football

BY NOVY KAPADIA

HEN this generation becomes old, they will look back on the 1996-97 football season in India and remember it as the year the 'old order changeth, giving way to the new'. Traditional tournaments have lost clout, status and importance in terms of allocation of dates and participation of teams.

Goa and Punjab sent makeshift squads for the recent Bharat Petroleum Santosh Trophy at Jabalpur (MP). Goa rested the players from the trio of clubs which have qualified for the Philips National League—Salgaocar, Dempo and their league champions Churchill Brothers. Punjab came without the stars from JCT, like I.M.Vijayan, Carlton Chapman, Baichung Bhutia and Tejinder Kumar. Again it was a strategic plan to keep the players fresh

for the National League which offers prize money of Rs.35 lakhs to the winner and Rs.20 lakhs to the runners-up. Each one of the participating teams is ensured a sum of Rs.5-7.5 lakhs plus a share of the gate money.

The Calcutta giants cried off from the 1996 Durand football tournament, for the first time since 1950 when the tournament was revived in Independent India. Fifteen times Durand champions Mohun



From left: I.M.Vijayan, Carlton Chapman and Baichung Bhutia are the superstars of Indian soccer. Their presence should draw in hordes of spectators at matches

Bagan and fourteen times champions
East Bengal opted for the more
lucrative pastures of the Bordoloi
tournament in Guwahati.
Mohammedan Sporting played in an
unknown tournament in Nagaland
held at the same time as the
appearance money was good.
Tradition and pride has gone out of

the window. Financial inducements is all.

The 52nd DCM football tournament is plunged into the abyss of uncertainty. The organisers just cannot find suitable dates. The original allotted dates were from Jan.6-20. However, this clashed with the Santosh Trophy. So the DCM organisers requested for a postponement. Organising secretary Rajat Mukherjee said, "We hoped that the players would join their club

sides, after the Santosh Trophy was over." However, this plan went awry. The top clubs shrugged aside the repeated entreaties by the DCM organisers and refused to participate as the dates were too close to the commencement of the National League. As Sukhwinder Singh, the

Former AIFF secretary Lakshmanan (left) has maintained that traditional tournaments should be held every alternative year, while current boss Das Munshi (right) wants to introduce a Fairplay Award



Strategic Moves will the innovations finally pay off? Only time will tell

INDIAN football is in a state of flux. Just like the Indian economy in its period of transition from a controlled economy to a market economy is facing many teething problems, similarly Indian football is also in a transition phase. Several experiments are being tried out in the current National Philips League. Time will tell if these innovations are successful or not.

For the National League, each team is allowed to field five foreigners. This move was criticised as it was interpreted as a restriction of opportunity for upcoming Indian players. However, the AIFF's rationale for such a move is very pragmatic. They hope that the presence of foreign players will improve the standard of play.

Another reason cited is that as

Indian football lacks many charismatic players at present, they hope that foreign players can become cult figures in the National League and attract the crowds. After all, besides Baichung Bhutia and I.M. Vijayan and to some extent Bruno Coutinho there is no Indian footballer for whom people will queue up to take autographs.

At present, JCT's Stephen Abarowei, the lanky and talented



Nigerian winger, is the most popular and sought after Toreign player in Indian football. East Bengal experimented with several Latvians, Russians and even some Swedish shoe salesmen, none of whom were up to the mark. In desperation, they sought to persuade the tried and trusted Chima Okerie who currently plays in the Danish League and has returned to Calcutta for a holiday.

The pitfalls of permitting five foreigners per side is that the National League may become a dumping ground for obscure foreign talent. Indian coaches will have to be more discerning in their foreign recruits, otherwise such a move will be self-defeating.

A National League without the National Club of India, Mohun Bagan and the most popular club in the country Mohaminedan Sporting was quite unthinkable even six months ago. However sadly for the organisers, both the glamour clubs were eliminated in the preliminary league phase held at Calcutta and Goa simultaneously. The AIFF could not formulate a method of reducing the 12 nominated teams to eight and so resorted to a qualifying phase. The AIFF was thus caught in its own trap as both the popular Calcutta clubs were eliminated.

Of course, this is a lesson for the Calcutta clubs that the rest of India is catching up. Teams from Goa and JCT from Phagwara also offer

The two stalwarts Alemae (right) and brother Jeacquim, are the force behind the Churchill Brothers team hecidentally, the Churchill Brothers are the ourrout Sodu Langue champines lucrative money and better facilities than the Calcutta clubs. Chibuzor who plays for Churchill Brothers and earlier for the Calcutta clubs said, "The atmosphere in Calcutta is still superb but the clubs are not professionally run. The players are over-worked and promises are often not kept." In fact, Chibuzor predicts that players from the North-East will start opting for the Goa clubs instead of Calcutta as the lifestyle is more suitable.

Churchill Alemao, the owner of Churchill Brothers, by splurging big money in transfers has suddenly taken football in Goa out of the feudal trap. Barlier shipping magnates of Dempo and Salgaocar acted like a cartel and kept players' prices restricted to about Rs.5,000 per month. Churchill Brothers paid big money to recruit Naushad Moosa from Air India, Somitai Shaiza, Aqueel Ansari and this year Chibuzor from Calcutta. They have recruited several talented African players. The entrance of Churchill Brothers in the buyers market has led to a dramatic improvement of players' fees as both Salgaocar and Dempo now have to compete to secure quality players.

Such changes are a welcome sign in the changing atmosphere of Indian football. However it is to be seen if in this transitional season, the crowds will be a trickle or a flood, in the absence of popular clubs like Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting. After all, however slick the marketing and television coverage a football match without a near capacity stadium is not the right choice and does not project a dynamic image.

Novy Kapadia

JCT coach said, "We cannot risk injuries to key players on the eve of the National League. By winning the DCM tournament we can earn a certain amount of money but nowhere near the Rs.35 lakhs which we can get for emerging champions of the National League. We have to get our priorities right." The only Calcutta club to qualify for the National League, East Bengal had also declined to participate in the DCM tournament, to avoid over-exposure to its players.

It augurs well for the development of professionalism in Indian football that at least JCT, the trio of clubs from Goa, Salgaocar, Dempo and Churchill Brothers and to some extent East Bengal, gave their players adequate rest for Indian football's biggest event, the Philips National League. If such enlightened views increase then cluster congestion, the bane of Indian football will automatically decrease.

DCM secretary Rajat Mukherjee is in a pensive mood these days. He is in a quandary. He either stages a low profile tournament or drops this edition. Says Mukherjee "We have invited three good foreign teams and we want some of the top Indian teams to participate to ensure adequate competition." So what are the options? The DCM organisers are toying with the idea of staging the tournament in March, just as the National League (slated to finish on March 15) will be in its last stages.

However the AIFF secretary, K.N.Mour says, "It is doubtful that the top players will be available for the DCM tournament then. Just after the National League we will stage a camp for the Nehru Cup slated at Kochi, from March 27-April 8." The options for the DCM tournament is thus clear: Either stage a low profile event or drop the current edition of the tournament. If they opt for the latter course, they have naturally fulfilled the suggestions of the former AIFF secretary P.P.Lakshmanan, who had always maintained that for the National League to flourish, the traditional tournaments should be held every alternative year. Mr Rajan



JCT of Phagwara with the 1996 IFA Shield. How long will this tournament survive as a major event is the question

Mukherjee and the DCM organisers were in a Catch-22 situation at the time of going to press.

How the mighty have fallen? Just two years ago, the golden jubilee

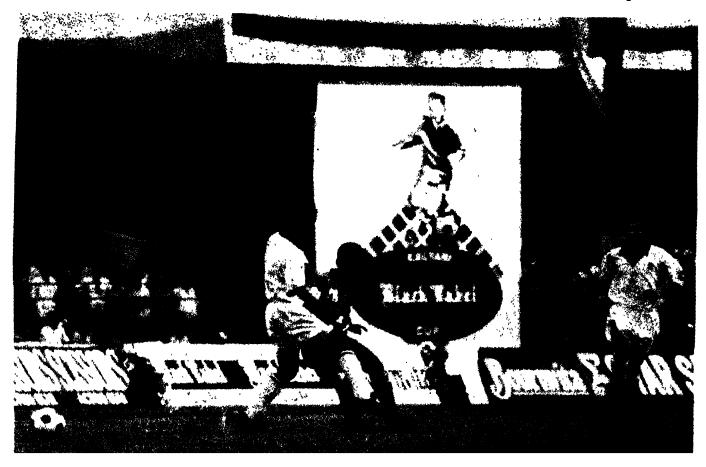
DCM tournament was a resounding success: packed crowds, massive media coverage, lucrative gate money and high quality entertainment. All the top Indian teams took part along with ultimate champions Bahaman Club of Iran, and teams from Nepal and Uzbekistan. The final between India's best side of the 1994-95

season, Mohun Bagan and Bahaman club (the Iranians won 2-0) was one of the finest matches on Indian soil in the recent past. Tickets were sold in black and the gates were closed hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.

For the DCM tournament it is like playing snakes and ladders, from the pinnacle of success they have plunged to the depths of despair. In the 1994-95 tournament, all the major clubs of India made frantic efforts to participate, now the organisers are desperate to rope in some of the best teams of the country. Rajat Mukherjee boldly said, "We are willing to conduct the DCM tournament, every alternate year. Bu this rule must apply to all the other major tournaments also."

Mukherjee's demands about equal treatment to all tournaments may not be met. The IFA Shield has procured a sponsor, Centre Fresh and acquired satellite TV coverage through ESPN.

East Bengal playing Dempo in last year's Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium. Both teams qualified for the final phase of the National League



The Durand tournament by their **Defence Ministry connections** managed to have their semi-finals and final telecast live. The Durand, Rovers and IFA Shield had greater clout and managed to acquire suitable dates from the AIFF. But how long will they survive as major tournaments of India? Times are changing. The advent of big money in the National League and the Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup means these major historical tournaments will soon be relegated to fringe tournaments, unless they can also provide big money. The sheer pressure of time has led to the 1996-97 DCM tournament getting cancelled or reduced to a low key event. Next season, it may be the turn of the other historical tournaments to be caught in such a dilemma.

The AIFF president, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi is sympathetic at the plight of the DCM organisers and those from other traditional tournaments. He said. "From 1997 onwards all domestic tournaments will be graded according to their merits and tradition. The highest category in this gradition will be for the Super Six tournaments, the Durand, Rovers, IFA Shield, DCM, Bordoloi trophy and the Sait Nagjee Trophy. The top teams can participate in the tournaments of their choice but we will choose a panel of national players and put restrictions on them as regards the number of matches they can play." Bold words. But will they be implemented or as in the past between the idea and the reality there could fall the inevitable shadow. Time alone will tell if the AIFF can get the top clubs to rest their leading players or obtain their services for the national teams. This is one more chapter in the ongoing struggle in Indian football between the AIFF and the top clubs for the players' loyalties.

Mr Das Munshi has other bold ideas for the 1997 football season. He said, "We are seriously considering to make the Federation Cup as the qualifying tournament for the National League from next year. The

Changing The Script

The AIFF, in association with IMG, is introducing shrewd marketing ploys

MG, Star Sports and Philips India have written a new script for Indian football. Time alone will tell if it will lead to better standards of play Richard R. Alford, general manager, IMG India rightly said, "We have re-written the calendar of Indian football this year." The AIFF is using IMG's expertise to try and make football a success in India. The method adopted is similar to the innovations launched in China by IMG.

The Chinese Football Federation and the IMG have a ten year development plan, which commenced in 1994. IMG works as the marketing and television rights co-ordinator. Just prior to the 1994 Chinese season, IMG negotiated a multi-million dollar sponsorship deal with Phillip Morris Asia, which now underwrites the league competition called the Marlboro League, involving 12 provincial Chinese teams.

Similarly for India's first-ever National Football League, it was IMG which negotiated the Rs.2 crore deal with Philips. Samsung, the Korean electronics giant, and ITC were also contacted but both shied away.

Using their clout and expertise, IMG ensured unprecedented television coverage for the Chinese National League. Every one of the 132 matches in the 1994 season was televised, one game per week on CCTV and one game per week on Star Sports and all the remaining games on provincial or city stations. Promoted with much razzmatazz, the Chinese league provided phenomenal spectator interest. For each of the 22 weeks of the Chinese season, the TV viewing figures were estimated at 100 million. Spectators at the ground were about 2.2 million. IMG hopes to create a similar craze in India for the Philips National league.

IMG has devised a unique manner of advertising through billboards in the stadia for the Indian Football League. Richard Alford explains, "Philips the main sponsor will have the majority of billboards at this tournament. Similarly other football sponsors like Scissors (ITC) or Kalyani Black Label (which sponsors the Federation Cup) or Bharat Petroleum (Santosh Trophy sponsors) will have more billboards at the tournaments they sponsor. But everywhere boards for each of them would be on display to enable excellent exposure on billboards placed strategically around the field."

Novy Kapadia

top eight teams, which have played in the National League will not be allowed to take part in the Federation Cup. The other leading teams in the country will be accommodated in the Federation Cup. The finalists of the Federation Cup will thus be promoted to the 1998 National League and the bottom two teams of the 1997 League relegated." Mr Das Munshi wants to start a Fairplay Award for 1997 based on the team's behaviour on-and-off the pitch during the whole season.

The Fairplay winners will be rewarded handsomely to the tune of Rs.15-20 lakhs.

The advent of satellite TV, multinationals and big time sport promoters like IMG has certainly changed the structure of the Indian football season forever. Now it is to be seen if the clubs also get more professional and provide greater facilities for their players, like gymnasiums, sauna baths, a masseur, a trainer and insurance cover.



MAN OF METTLE

Argentina's GABRIEL BATISTUTA has been, so far, the most consistent goal-scorer of the Nineties

HEN you think of world-class strikers, you think of the precocious boy wonder from Brazil Ronaldo, who plays for Barcelona of Spain; England's lethal Alan Shearer, the top-scorer of Euro'96 and the man with the awesome physique but delicate touch, George Weah.

In the protracted debates and conversations of either the layman or the experts, on who is the best striker in the world, the above mentioned trio obviously figure most prominently. However, the accolade for the most consistent goal-scorer of the Nineties must go to Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta, who plays his trade with Fiorentina of Italy in Series A, the most demanding league in the world.

Since 1991 when he joined Fiorentina, Batistuta has become the darling of the Italian fans with his goal-scoring feats. Till the end of 1996, he has scored more than 150 goals for his Italian club, noted for their livid purple strips. He was top scorer in the Italian league in 1995 with 32 goals. The 'Tifosi', Italian fans have adopted him as a hero. The most fervent among them even erected a statue to his memory which towers over the foot of Fiesole village.

The 27-year-old Batistuta is an out and out goal-scorer. Whenever interviewed he makes his intentions clear that what he enjoys most is putting the ball into the back of the net. In an interview to a British

football magazine Four-Four-Two (January 1997), Batistuta said, "Scoring is my life. A nice dribble or a back-heel means nothing to me; all that counts is sticking the ball in the back of the opponents' net."

Batistuta grew up playing football on the streets till late in the evening in the remote and tranquil Reconquista village in Sante Fe province of Argentina. He was magnetically drawn to the game, like so many other youngsters in the football crazy South American countries. However, his initial ambition was not to become a professional footballer. His early dream was to become a doctor.

Recalling his childhood, Batistuta said, "I was nine, the World Cup was my first-ever dreams, my first emotions. That's what really opened my eyes to football, but not to making a career out of it. For me, it was more of a recreation among friends. I didn't imagine making it my profession.

Rather I saw myself become a doctor."

Still his sheer talent, pace and goal-scoring ability attracted the attention of scouts of several Argentinian division one clubs. At the age of 18, he was offered a contract by Newell's Old Boys. After a brief stint with this club, he was transferred to River Plate and later to the club he supported as a youth, Boca Juniors.

His career was not roses all the way. He had to struggle to make an impact and often had to overcome the prejudices of coaches. A respected figure like Daniel Passarella, the current Argentina national coach, thought that Batistuta was slow and chubby. He nicknamed him, 'El Gordo' (the fat one). Passarella sidelined Batistuta when he took over



as coach of River Plate at the end of 1989. At that stage, Batistuta felt his career was going to end prematurely.

However, the club of his dreams, Boca Juniors gave him a new lease of life. His goal-scoring feats enabled Boca Juniors become league

Gabriel Batistuta with his colleague and friend Cannigia, returning from a training session during the World Cup in 1994



champions in 1991. That same year, he was selected for Argentina and dazzled in the 1991 American Cup. Fiorentina's agents had flown to Argentina to watch Diego Lattore in action but instead they signed up Batistuta.

Again Batistuta struggled in a new club in the initial months. Fiorentina's Brazilian coach, Lazaroni did not have much faith in his abilities. For six months Batistuta rarely got a first team appearance. However, Lazoroni's successor Radice launched him to success. He has been a consistent goal-getter for Fiorentina and Argentina since then. In the 1994-95 season, Batistuta scored in every one of Fiorentina's opening 11 Series A matches—a new Italian record. He has surpassed the legendary Diego Maradona as the top-scorer for Argentina with 35 goals in 52 internationals. In the USA '94, though Argentina were eliminated by Romania in the pre-quarter final stage, Batistuta nicknamed 'El Camion' (the truck) for his hustling, hurtling style of play excelled.

Nimble, industrious and deadly, Batistuta is languid when without the ball but shows electrifying pace and commitment with the ball at his feet. Batistuta has remained a one club man. He chose to remain at the club even when they were relegated to Division Two in 1994. The fans adored him even more for such loyalty. In Florence, they call him "Batigol" (which means Batistuta's goal).

His faith in Fiorentina has been repaid. They won the Italian Cup and the Italian Super Cup last season. Batistuta wants to play in Europe till the start of the 21st century. He will then return to his home town and work in the 8,000-hectare ranch he bought with his father. After his playing career is over. Batistuta intends to return to the land and not be involved with the game anymore. However, Europe's most consistent goal-scorer has two unfulfilled ambitions left in the game, to win the Italian Championships with Fiorentina and the 1998 World Cup with Argentina. Will they materialise? Novy Kapadia



ON THE KNIFE EDGE

English football clubs have gone public and are now listed on the Stock Exchange. The result: managers are under enormous pressure to deliver good results. Kevin Keegan, famed Newcastle United manager, could not handle the strain and quit

Kevin Keegan: quit Newcastle United when the pressures became too much for him to bear

ITIES at night, novelist
Martin Amis says, contain
men who cry in their sleep
and then say nothing. It's
nothing, just sad dreams. Or
something like that. Just sad dreams.
Yeah. Oh sure. Just sad dreams. Or
something like that.

Is it because of sad dreams that men cry at night or is it because of stress? Most likely, the answer is stress. This is the saga of modern professional men, who may be pursuing different goals, in different fields, but face the same pressures in top professional jobs and suffer quietly, crying in their sleep, and then saying, oh, it's nothing, just sad dreams.

For Kevin Keegan, however, it was more than just sad dreams. It was a nightmare. But he refused to suffer mutely. He resigned as manager of Newcastle United, highlighting an amazing degree of convergence between the worlds of football, business and politics. His dramatic exit showed how unbearable the pressures of being a top football manager can be; pressures that were

hitherto unknown in sporting circles, but familiar only to those at the top of money-making multinationals, business conglomerates and politics.

But then football in England has itself become a money-machine. Television contracts, merchandising sales, sponsorship deals have poured money into the club coffers. This has not satisfied the cash-thirst of the club bosses, who have ensured that their clubs have gone public and be listed on the Stock Exchange.

It is this stock market investments which has made the pressures unbearable. The success and failure of the clubs have suddenly been so nerve-wrackingly intertwined with the ruthless boom or bust situations of the stock exchange, that it is beginning to take its toll on the morale of the clubs' football managers.

Like any other commercial organisation, if the clubs' performance on the field decides its share price on the stock exchange floor, then you can understand the predicament of a manager who, in most cases, is held answerable for his team's showing. This is life on a knife-edge, isn't it?

More so, because most conventional companies' financial health takes a while to be known on the stock exchange floor; in football, the impact is immediate and strong. While success pushes the share prices high, the loss of a few points on the league table, or even a few goals conceded can prove disastrous. And, for all this, the man supposed to be answerable is the manager.

Yes, pressure is a professional hazard inherent in the manager's job. But, it is one thing to face the pressure of expectant club fans, and quite another to face pressure from the club boardroom jittery about the falling share prices. The latter is the kind of pressure that ultimately shattered Keegan's nerves. He quit; perhaps he did himself a favour. There are those who haven't. They are in pain.

Worse, however, is the plight of those managers who have spent a fortune to get the players of their choice. Keegan spent 60 million

SPOTLIGHT

pounds on players in just five years. Newcastle indeed became a star-studded side, but they failed to win a single big trophy.

Shareholders obviously had little sympathy for either Keegan or his side. "It is the pressure of the growing business which recognises it has to produce a performance that is ultimately going to benefit a third party—the stock market," explains

one analyst.

"A good analogy is the Saatchi group," says another observer.
Saatchi grew through tremendous acquisitions and was always looking for the large, high-profile acquisition and all the while they neglected the

Jack Chariton is known in English football as the serial quitter, for his propensity to leave clubs at the drop of a hat cash flows.

"Perhaps, like Saatchi," the analyst continued, "Newcastle which has gone deeply into the red to buy players, has gone too far. Last season they acquired a star such as Faustino Asprilla when all that they needed was a home-grown player to stay in the side and not upset the balance of the team. That was a big mistake."

The mistake, obviously, was



Kenny Delglish also quit Liverpool when he found the stress of being a manager just too much to beer

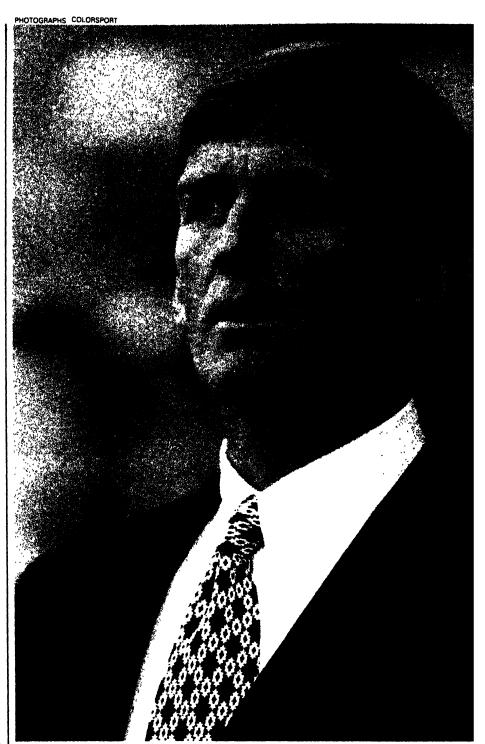
Keegan's. No one was going to spare him the criticism. But the problem with men like Kevin Keegan was that they have had too good a life: idolised, hero-worshipped by too many people for too long a time. The result: they cannot tolerate criticism. He has been one of England's foremost players in recent times. He is a glamorous man too.

In his post-playing days, when he took to coaching, he immediately found a messiah-like niche for himself in the pantheon of English soccer. You don't criticise the gods. You only worship them. And that's exactly why Kevin Keegan could not bear it any longer, when English football critics and fans committed the blasphemy of criticising one of their soccer prophets. He sulked; then resigned.

Keegan's action, however, is hardly unprecedented. Many managers before him have left their jobs almost in the same way, when they realised that they were about to take leave of their senses. Kenny Dalglish did it, at both Liverpool and Blackburn, Steve Coppell at Manchester City. And Jack Charlton has been known as the serial guitter. Believe it or not, Jack Charlton left Newcastle at a time when life was much easier for English club soccer managers; yet, Charlton quit the club simply because he could not stand the barracking from the supporters.

Kevin Keegan, obviously, had a much graver problem than that, no doubt. But the situation he faced is now the order of the day. The fact that he could not adapt himself to it proved that he was yesterday's man. Keegan said, that he had nothing more to offer as manager; that sounded like an excuse. In response, one critic wrote mercilessly, "In the macho world of football management, a world of bluff and bravado, this is like admitting impotence."

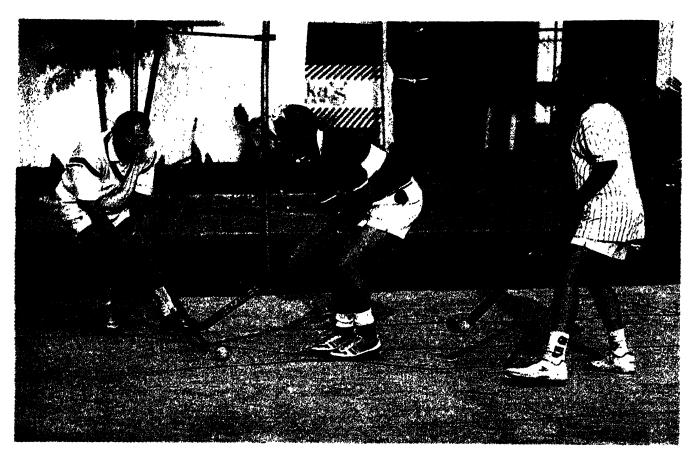
This was a harsh statement. But then who doesn't hate quitters? Be it in politics, or sport or business. Kevin



Keegan and all those who chose quitting, preferred that option rather than fighting on; they did know what was happening to modern professional football—the pressures, strains, the excessive money, and the full-scale commercialism. He saw it happen before his own eyes. He should have braced himself for all this

well in advance, rather than run away scared and exhausted.

He should also have realised that there was no reason to feel excessively guilty for his club's debacles. Football management, after all, is an imprecise science. Success here is not guaranteed. Failure too does not mean you are a nobody.



A Day In The Life Of GURBUX SINGH

Meet the illustrious former Indian hockey captain who at the age of 61 can still play competitive hockey and is more than a match for players half his age

S PORTS journalists who work in the Ananda Bazar Group got used to seeing Gurbux Singh for years together on their way to work. That's because "Guruji', as he is popularly known, had a motor spare parts shop at the top of Prafulla Sarkar Street. Those who walked past, and were in no hurry would sometimes call out, "Guruji, how are you?" A bespectacled, serious-looking man, sitting upright behind a long table, facing the street, would raise a palm in acknowledgement and say, "Fine. How are you?"

Pedestrians who walked on the pavement of the same street would never have guessed as they stared into the shop that here sat an illustrious former Indian hockey captain.

That's Gurbux Singh for you. Simple, unassuming and yet shrewd, tenacious and hard-working. It's not weak people who have an international career lasting close to a decade; he has played over 100 internationals.

Here's a brief look at his career: Played for Bengal from 1957 to 1972. Was also captain and coach.

At age 61, he is still fit enough to play his favourite game of hockey

Was on the winners' podium in the Beighton Cup, the premier tournament of that time, ten times.

Began his international career in 1961 with a tour to New Zealand.

Was on the 1964 gold medal winning team at the Tokyo Olympics.

Was the captain of the Indian team that won international tournments at Hamburg and in Japan in 1966.

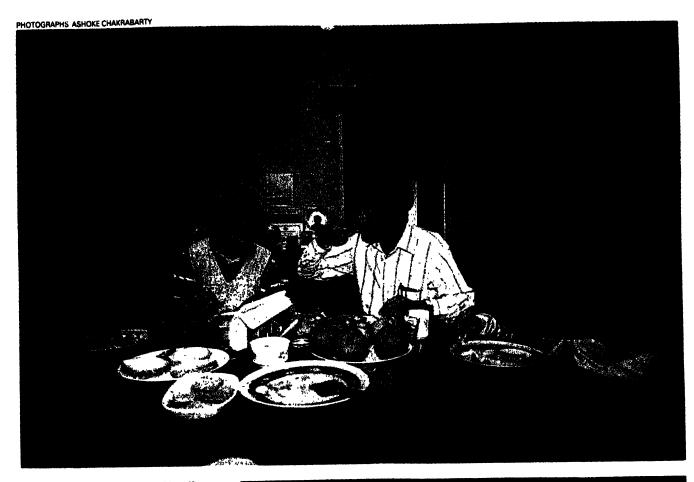
Was the vice-captain of the gold medal winning team in the '66 Bangkok Asian Games.(Also received the Arjuna Award that year.)

Was the joint-captain, along with Prithipal Singh of the bronze medal winning team in the '68 Mexico Olympics.

Was selected as a member of the World XI after these Games.

Retired at the peak of his career because he wanted to leave while at the top of his game.

Was a member of the selection committee of the Indian Hockey Federation for the '73 World Cup and



Having breakfast at home with his wife, mother and son Pawan

from 1980 to '85.

Coached the French national team in '74 and '75.

Was the coach of the Indian hockey team at the '76 Montreal Olympics.

Was the manager of the Indian hockey team that took part in the '83 Champions Trophy at Karachi.

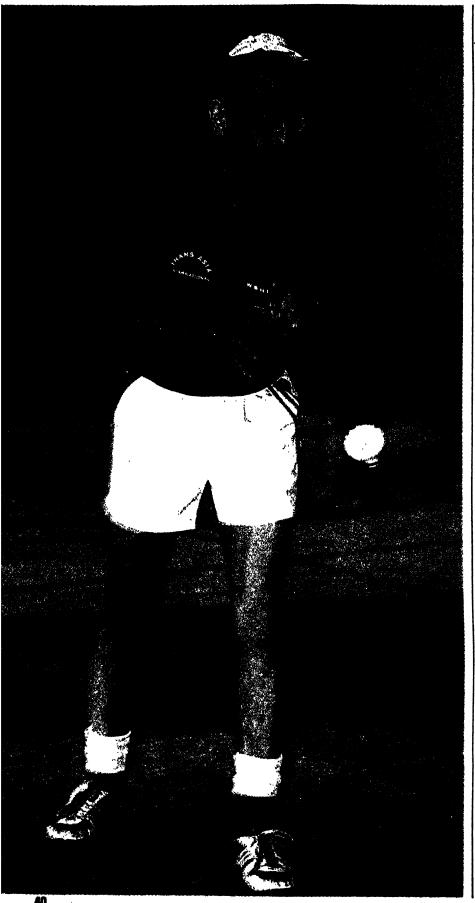
Is an FIH international hockey umpire. Did umpiring in the '82 Asian Games. Now he does umpiring for the local league matches at Calcutta.

At present, he is a judge and technical delegate of FIH.

It has been a rich and fulfilling life. It's not anyone or everybody who becomes an India captain, a dual Olympian, an Asian Games gold medallist in a team event, an umpire, a selector, a manager, a coach, a sports columnist, a TV and radio commentator, an administrator, (he is the current secretary of the Bengal Hockey Association) as well as be a successful businessman.

Sitting in his air-conditioned office







Talking of being a businessman, these days, 'Guruji' no longer sits in the shop on Prafulla Sarkar Street. The shop is still there but his brother-in-law runs it now. Gurbux Singh now works as a Director for Topsel Exim Private Limited, (dealing in motor spare parts) which is located in nearby Ganesh Chandra Avenue.

Gurbux Singh is 61 years old. One look at him and you know that he is fit as a fiddle. He still plays competitive hockey for the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club in the local league. He explains that it is a strict disciplined

To keep fit, he plays badminton every day in the



life that has enabled him to remain fit for so long.

"I don't drink. I don't smoke. I rarely have late nights. But I also thank God for giving me such a sound constitution." In fact, in his over 100 international matches, he had never suffered from a pulled muscle or a sprain.

His daily life begins with a game of badminton at the Dalhousie Institute at 6.30 in the morning. He plays for an hour. He returns home, has his bath and breakfast and goes to his office. In the evening, at 6 p.m., he goes straight to work at the Bengal Hockey Association office.

"I want to give back something to the game which has given me so much," is his explanation for his continued touch with the game. He works till eight and then goes home.

He has five children, four daughters (all married) and a son. Three of the daughters are settled in the United States; a fourth lives in Chennai. Pawan, the son, is studying in Class 12. He is not a hockey player; instead, he plays an occasional game of tennis. He seems to be a typical example of how more and more young people are drawn away from hockey into other sports.

Praying at the gurudwara

A sad Gurbux Singh bemoans the state of hockey in India, ("Winning was a habit with us!") and the lack of attention to the game ("People spend lakhs on cricket and football, while neglecting the game which once brought so much of glory to the country.")

What can we say to these familiar statements except to murmur, "That's life, Guruji! That's life!"

Shevlin Sebastian

BELIEVETT amatic t tyed OR NOT!

Despite such a dramatic increase in cricket matches being played today, there are several records that have stood the test of time

RICKET is a game of records. A 50 or a century by a batsman is considered a big achievement. So is a 5 or a 10 wicket haul by a bowler.

Here's a look at some of the most remarkable records in Test cricket.

1. Jim Laker 19-90 Eng.vs Aus. Manchester 1956.

Jim Laker's 19 wickets in a Test. To break this record, a bowler has to take all the 20 wickets which is practically impossible.

2. Hanif Mohammed batting for a marathon 16 and a half hours for his 337 against the West Indies in 1957-58.

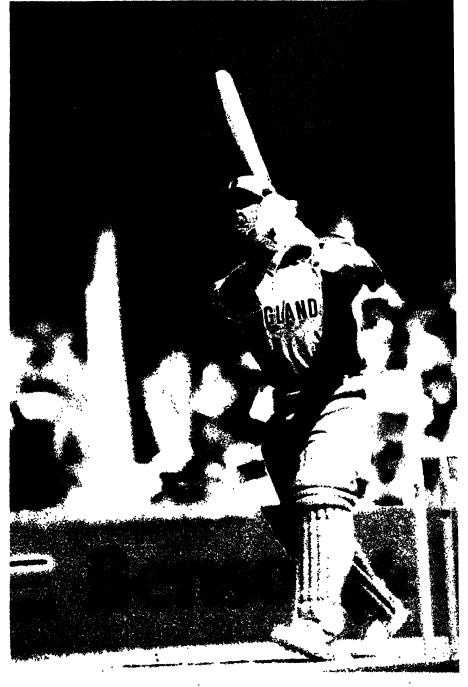
This means that he batted continuously for close to three days; this is quite a feat of concentration and stamina. These days, a team hardly ever bats for three days because that will make it a farce of a 5-day Test match. It seems that this record will stand forever.

3. The Great Don Bradman.

Don Bradman's career statistics are unbelievable. He has a career average of 99.96 over 52 Tests. In Post-War cricket, Sunil Gavaskar, with an average of 51, is considered great. What should Bradman be called then? He hit a century every 2.72 innings or 1.8 Tests. He hit 12 double hundreds, two triple hundreds and once remained unbeaten on 299. In his whole career, he has never got out in the 90's, the 190's or the 290's.

His record of hitting 309 runs in a day's play is quite amazing. 300 runs

lan Botham: has scored a century and taken five wickets in a Test five times



Kapil Dov: has never missed a Test in his career due to injury

in a day for a team is considered to be some feat. For a cricketer to get so many runs single-handedly is unimaginable.

Another mark set by the Don is scoring 974 runs in a Test series. He got these runs in five Tests against England in the 1930s.

4. Mohammad Azharuddin's three centuries in each of his first three Tests. This he did against England in 1984-85. Recently, Saurav Ganguly came very close to equalling this feat. To break Azharuddin's record, a batsman

has to score a hundred in each of his first four Tests. This is quite a herculean task.

5. Graham Gooch scoring a triple century and a single century against India in a single Test.

He made 333 and 123. This is a record in Test cricket. His aggregate of 456 for a single match is also a record.

6. Mushtaq Mohammed hitting a hundred at 16 years of age.

Sachin Tendulkar came close to beating it but failed.

7. Ian Botham's feat of scoring a hundred and taking five wickets in the same Test five times.

Even Kapil, Imran and Hadlee never came close to it.

Here's Ian Botham's statistics: 103 & 5-73 vs N.Z. 1977-78 108 & 8-34 vs Pak 1978 114 & (6-58,7-48) vs Ind 1979-80 149 & 6-95 vs Aus 1981

149 & 6-95 vs Aus 1981 138 & 5-59 vs N.Z. 1983-84

8. Kapil Dev never missed a Test during his career to injury. He played 131 Tests over a span of 16 years. The only Test he missed in this period was due to disciplinary reasons. This is an amazing achievement for a last-medium bowler and a world class all-rounder who had to carry a heavy workload.

9. Brothers Ian and Greg Chappell

Don Bradman: his career statistics is simply mind-boggling



hitting a century in each innings of the same Test.

Let's see whether the Waughs can do it.

10. M.A.K.Pataudi became the captain of India at 21 years of age. Come to think of it, he was the juniormost member of the team he captained. The boy wonder of our times Sachin Tendulkar was expected to break this record but he had to wait till 23 to become the Indian captain.

11. Sarf raz Nawaz taking 8 wickets for 1 run.

This was against Australia. Pakistan won the match.

12. Five persons from the Mohammed family of Pakistan have played Test cricket.

That too, with a lot of success. Brothers Wazir, Hanif, Mushtaq, Sadiq and Hanif's son Shoaib have all played for Pakistan.

Compiled by Azfar Alam

MENATWORK

Team boss Tom Walkinshaw and ace driver Damon Hill have their task cut out. Their brief is very simple: to make the TWI Arrows Yamaha team a competitive outfit

FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

F you believe in good omens and bad, then Damon Hill certainly did not make a very promising start to his new season, with his new car. It was also ironic that what he said to show his undented confidence turned out to be such cruel reality.

Before his introduction to the new car that he would be driving this season, after being so suddenly and unceremoniously sacked by Williams in the year that was his, he prophesied that he would be driving his new car round the circuit with his eyes shut. Little did he know then that his statement would prove so prophetic.

When he confidently got onto the circuit to test run his new car, he found his technical team grappling with a recalcitrant gear box. The problem was so complicated that while Hill waited helplessly and impatiently, his new chariot, the Arrows-Yamaha was carried off in a truck to a factory in Leafield, repaired and then brought back to the track in Northamptonshire. By then dusk had fallen over the old airfield. The great perseverer, Damon Hill, then rode into the cockpit and drove his car around in moonlight.

Well, in this country, in a foggy, wintry evening, if you had to drive a racing car, you might as well did it blindlolded. But as undaunted as ever, Damon Hill went full throttle negotiating two miles of uncertain course at speeds sometimes reaching

The good old days. Damon Hill with the crew of team Rothmans Williams Renault, the team he guided to victory



200 miles per hour.

This was essential Damon Hill. Always ready to face a challenge with courage and extreme self-confidence. In fact, he went on test driving his new car till so late, that during a stop, a mechanic damaged the car's exhaust trying to restart it in the dark. This certainly was a rather ominous beginning, wasn't it, especially to the superstitious among millions of his fans?

But Hill was as bouyant as ever. He described the car as a "sexy, little number". And his optimism remained boundless as it has always

been. "I think it would be remarkable to win a race this year. It's not impossible. I am just hoping it might," he said.

Sceptics, or perhaps more appropriately, realists, of course, are in doubt, if reality would be as stimulating or exciting. And they have





Once the season gets going, Damen Hill will have a lot of explaining to do on how he finds his new car

very valid reasons. Damon Hill may be the Formula One world champion, but given the daunting task he faces, it would be unwise to expect him to do wonders with a new, unknown, untested car. The premier division of Formula One, after all, is an exclusive club. Rarely does it allow any upstart to enter. Damon Hill, of course, will enjoy the advantage of having Tom Walkinshaw on his side. His vast experience in the field, his innovative skills will obviously be Hill's forte.

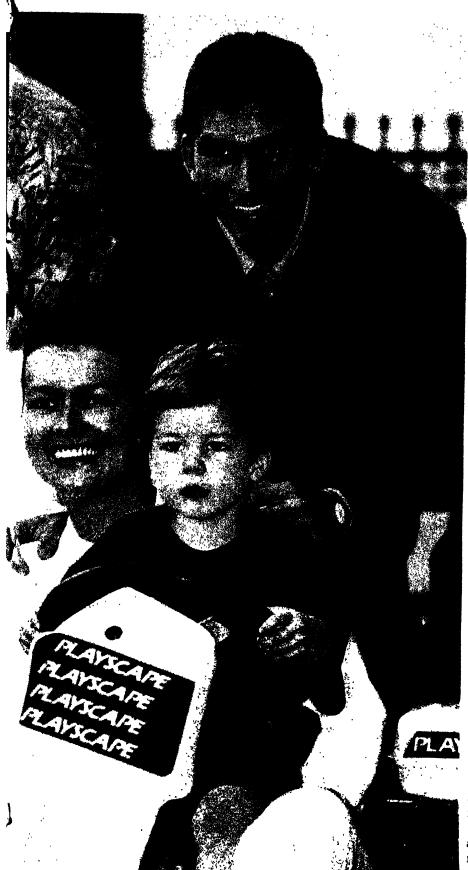
Fill was as buoyant as ever. He described the car as a "sexy little number."
And his optimism remained boundless, as it has always been. "I think it would be remarkable to win a race this year. It's not impossible. I am just hoping it might."

And as expected, the boss' optimism about the new season was no less strong than the driver's. Walkinshaw even talked about the possibility of a few victories before the end of the coming season, and his faith in his own vision of a successful season seemed genuine enough.

But more important than all this optimism and determination, I think, is Damon Hill's pragmatism. He has high hopes, but he is equally aware of the considerable odds he is facing. "It may prove to be a very rude awakening for me. I won't have a clear road ahead of me," he said.

And the reason obviously is not Hill himself. It is the car that would hold the key. And it has already gone through a number of experiments and alterations for a variety of reasons.

The most interesting of them, of course, is Hill's legs and feet. It took the technicians quite a while to hit upon a design to accommodate Hill's long legs and big feet. But, making Hill comfortable has always been



Essentially a family man, Hill loves spending time with wife Georgie and their kids

uppermost in his team's mind, and their relief was obvious when Hill was happily settled in the driver's seat. "I didn't realise that he had size I I and a half. But it was worth the effort and investment to make him comfortable."

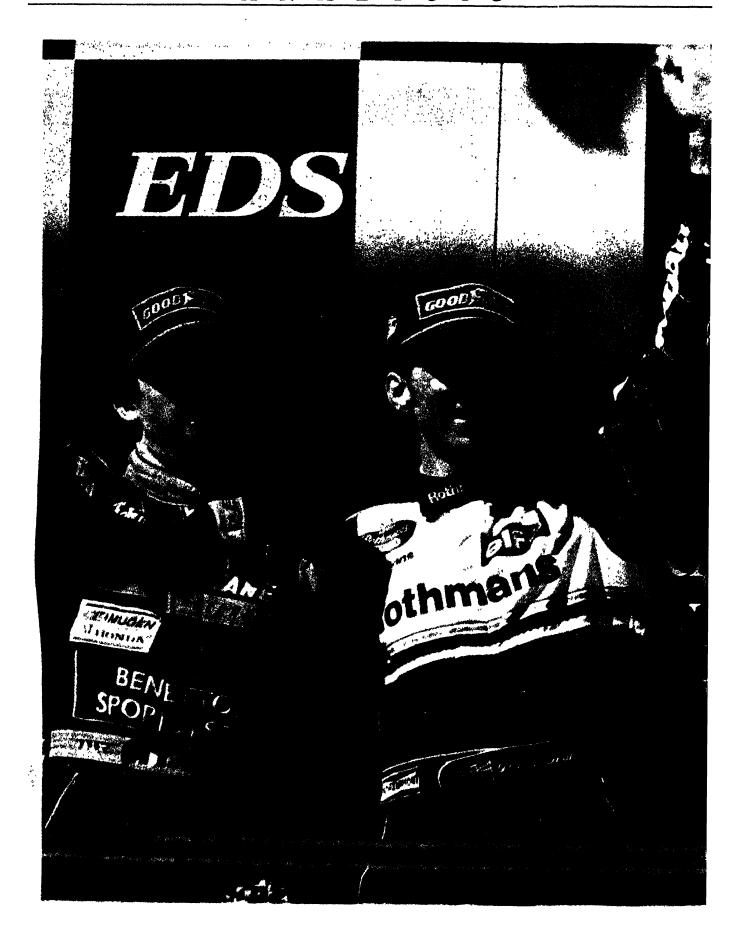
Hill, obviously was happy, too when he found that it all "fit like a glove." But no one should lose sight of the fact that Hill's opening performance is less than a month away on March 9. And his car still

But more important than all this optimism and determination is Damon Mill's programation. He has high hopes, but he is boundly aware of the examinerable odds he is favore, "It may prove to be notery rude awakening for inc., I won't have a clear road aboud of me," he said.

needs certain crucial fine tuning. Walkinshaw, predictably would bank very much on Hill's considerable experience to steer the car clear of trouble, and somewhat make up for its shortcomings. He is also depending quite heavily on the strength and potential of his own tyre, Bridgestone. He seriously hopes that combination of the two would help him pull of a few wins. He sincerely thinks he "is not dreaming."

No, I don't think he is. He is as aware of the hard realities as he should be. He has little doubt that the "first six months are going to be very hard," he said, continuing, "When I took over Benetton, it was in shambles, so I am under no illusion, as to the amount of effort required. This was worse by a country mile. But we made Benetton a good and competitive team, and that is our aim here," Walkinshaw said.

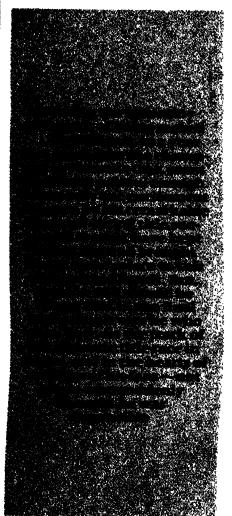
Hill's chances of achieving those aims will be evident soon. But at the moment Damon Hill is happy to have made a start at all. Suffering the





Winning was a habit that came naturally to Damon Hill. Whether he can repeat his magic with his new team remains to be seen

ignominy and shock of being sacked by Williams, in a year that made him the champion of Formula One, must have been painful enough. It was only the excitement induced by his remarkable and nail-biting title success that must have kept him going and brought about at least some solace



to this unexpected insult. But, Damon Hill should be happy that in the final reckoning it was he who won, both on the track of his ultimate title race in Japan, and in the hearts of millions of his fans—not those who suddenly thought he was dispensable.

And now that he faces a bigger challenge, an almost impossible one, one can be sure that his indomitable spirit will once again be his greatest source of inspiration.



QUESTIONS

Who said these words after seeing the steel structure that contained the Olympic cauldron and the Flame, "I think it is obnoxious. It looks like the bridge over the River Kwai?"

Name the first cricket captains of Australia and England?

When asked why he was late for his first round badminton match at Atlanta a player replied, "I was late because my watch is still showing the Nigerian time." Who was he?

Answer to Question No. 6





Answer to Question No.5

What is referred to as the proposal of 1996?

About which tennis player was it said, "She is like Chris Evert when she was a youngster, she was like Martina Navratilova when she started to win, she is like Maureen Connolly in the 50's and Suzanne Lenglen in the 20's?"

When did Sunil
Gavaskar open the bowling for India?

In pole vaulting what is 'plant'?

"Off" is said to signify the start of which sport?

"I didn't like the teacher and the teacher also did not like me. I, therefore left school at the age of 13." Who am I?

Who described a bat as, "A piece of wood to whack the ball with."?

In Japanese language what is the literal meaning of judo?

ANSWERS

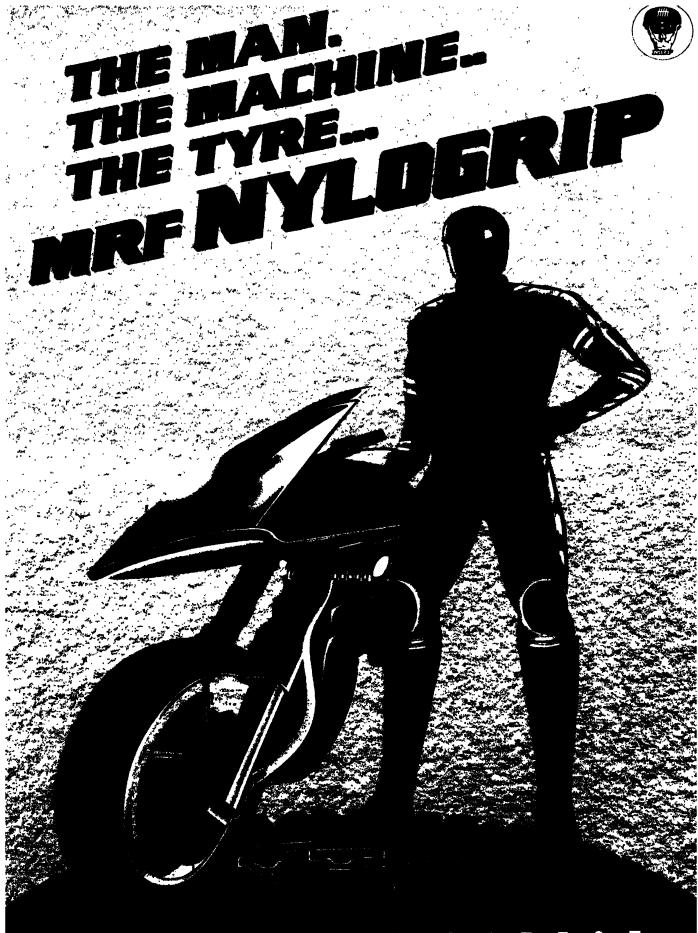
- 1. Andrew Young, the co-chairman of the Atlanta Games.
- 2. D.W Gregory was the first Australian captain while James Lillywhite was the first English captain.
- 3. Nigerian, Kayode Akhinsaya.
- 4. 26-year-old British canoeist proposing on bended knees to the team's 33-year-old physio Julie Stark in front of a full stadium. This was applauded by all the spectators which included President Bill Clinton.
- 5. Steffi Graf.
- 6. Gavaskar opened the bowling attack for India against England in Madras in 1972-73.
- 7. Placing of the pole in a box.
- 1. It signifies the start of a horse race.
- 9. Pat Cash.
- 16. Viv Richards.
- 11. The gentle way.

THIS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPILED BY

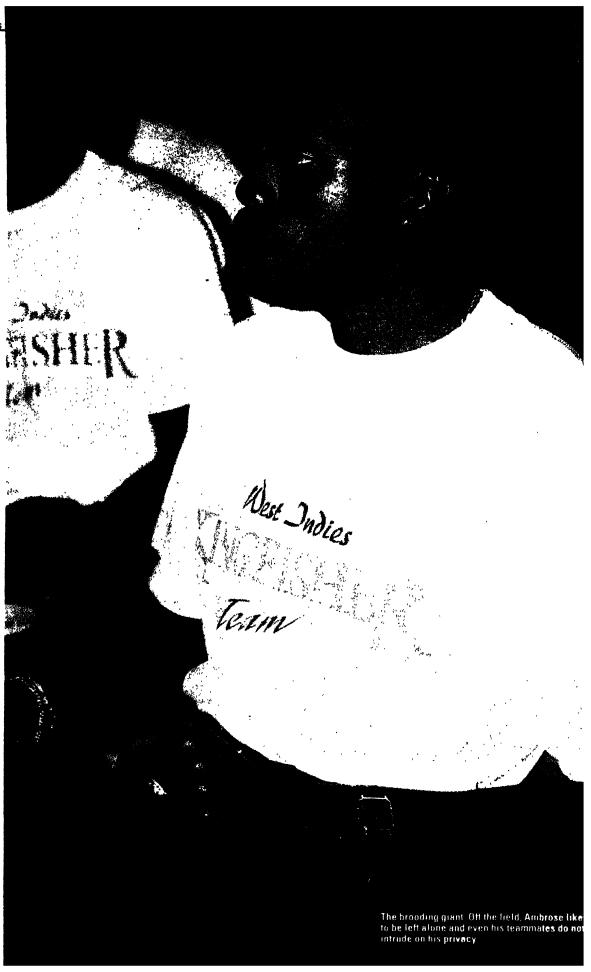


KING JOHN SULTAN, C/O MOHD. SHAFI, SEC-1, S.K. COLONY, QAMARWARI, NEAR BLUE HOUSE, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR. PIN—190 010

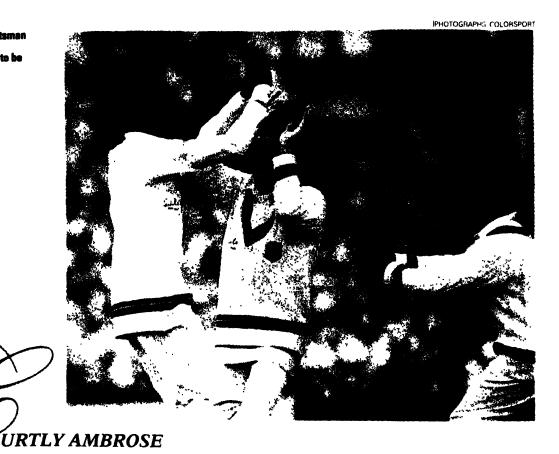
All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.



ALWAYS THE LATEST



Ambrose sends another batsman packing. Always a fierce



rarely talks to the press. Most of the time, journalists have to speak to his mother to know something about him. But that does not take away from the fact that he is one of the greatest fast bowlers that world cricket has ever seen

what they say of any West 🖁 Indian fast bowler. Ask Dean Jones and he'll tell you. Jones one of the most successful batsmen in one day cricket had the nature of a gambler which is so important for the shorter version of the game. But occasionally a gambler is going to lose, and "Deano" has suffered a few reversals in his time.

ON'T get him angry. That's

Probably the most famous of those was the time he asked Curtly Ambrose to remove his sweat-bands during the WSC finals at the SCG in the summer of 1992-93. Ambrose had bowled well throughout the tour but, at that point, had not benefited from a great deal of luck. Australia were chasing their first ever finals series win on home soil against the West Indies; Jones decided that he wanted Ambrose to take off his

two white sweat-bands, which the batsman maintained clashed with the white ball. The great Antiguan did as the umpires asked, but his reaction soon proved he was hardly thrilled to be asked to do such a thing.

The next delivery ripped past Jones' throat and Curtly had five wickets in a Windies victory before anyone pretty much knew what had happened. Not content with securing victory in the World Series, Ambrose then proceeded to take ten wickets in the Adelaide Test and a further nine in the Test at Perth, including a stunning spell of seven wickets for one run in 25 balls, as the West Indies retained the Frank Worrell Trophy, 2-1.

Compare that to what has happened in this recent series Down Under. In the first two Tests of the five Test series, the 33-year-old fast

bowler had laboured taking three wickets off 610 deliveries at a terrible average of 93,00. It was being said and written that Ambrose was in the twilight of his career. Criticism came from all sides. Michael Holding publicly declared that Ambrose ought to shape up or ship out. Dennis Lillee wrote, "Ithink Curtly Ambrose is completely burnt out. His bowling lacks fire and his fielding exhibits the same enthusiasm as a man walking to the gallows."

Ambrose may be nearing the twilight, for he is not in the flush of youth, leaping up to the bowling crease and delivering the ball at 150 kmph. But Richie Benaud had predicted before this tour: "What I have seen of him in recent seasons in England allows me to assure you that he is still a fine bowler and he will be





Don't ever get him angry: That is the cardinal rule in the batsman's book when they are facing Curtly Ambrose

again a real handful in Australia."

Especially when he gets angry. And angry he was with all the talk that he was "finished". The giant Antiguan cast aside the lethargy which had hounded him for the first two months of the tour and returned to his menacing best at the Melbourne Test, wrecking the Australian innings twice and ensuring a Windies win to come back from 0-2 down in the series. The rejuvenated and reborn Ambrose tore into the Aussies, plotting the Windies destruction, with nine wickets in the match; five in the first.

He then beamed and declared, "I'm not washed up." After all, he had just delivered on a promise to his teammates. He had vowed to them that he would take about ten wickets and win the match for his team: that was his Christmas pledge.

The second part of the bargain was that Brian Lara had promised to score a century if Ambrose got five first-innings wickets. Lara perhaps was confident he would not have to come good on his promise, such was the fast bowler's poor form.

But the venom, the searing pace and the murderous lift was back. He admitted he had not been bowling anywhere near his best at the start of the tour. "But I never lost confidence," he said, "I was really keyed up and though criticism does not bother me, it motivates me.

"If I had a bad game, or two, they say I'm all washed up. But all the guys know that I'm a lot better than what I showed early on in the tour. They never lost faith and that kept me strong. I wanted to make sure I kept them happy."

Ambrose also said that the inclusion of new faces in the Australian side had boosted his confidence. "When I see a couple of young faces coming into Test cricket, I want to let them know it's the big time."

More than anything else for Ambrose it is always a question of attitude, for it is attitude which seems to govern this fast bowling enigmatic performances. The towering, glowering menacing giant is a private man of few words, a seemingly aloof__ character who prefers to sing to himself and muse over distant thoughts.

I recall travelling with the West Indies team on a tour of India. Ambrose always dressed for a flight as if he were a businessman. Smart, in his blazer, with sleek briefcase in hand into which he would constantly peer into while waiting for the boarding to be announced. Occasionally, he would strum the guitar he always carries. No pressman approached him for he does not give interviews. West Indian cricket writers interview his mother instead to get the latest news on the man they dubbed "The Little Bird" after Big Bird Joel Garner.

Big Curtly has a keen, dry sense of humour, who likes to make members of the Fourth Estate squirm and even grovel for information.

My conversation at the WACA recently was brief.

"Feel good this morning, Curtly?"

"What is this, an interview?"

"Everyone wants to know how good your leg is feeling and whether you will play against Pakistan?"

"Wait till tomorrow, you'll find out."

As he meticulously packed his new bowling boots into a cotton bag, I asked which hamstring was causing problems. "Both of them," came the reply.

It brought back memories of an incident during the last World Cup in Pakistan. Our flight from Karachi to Lahore was choc-a-block because both the West Indies and South African teams were travelling after their eventful quarter final. Ambrose sat just behind me in the middle of the aircraft in the row of seats that had extra leg room. A kid from the rear end of the aircraft kept running up and down the aisle collecting autographs.

Ambrose first warned him to stop running around and sit down. When the warning was not heeded and the boy made another run, Ambrose got out of his seat, grabbed the youngster by his arm and bellowed into his face, "Now go and sit down, will you!". Shattered, the boy never ventured out of his seat.





Don't get him angry.

Widely maligned after insipid performances here, Ambrose got angry; it was back to trench warfare. The big man was back in business with a vengeance, challenging the Pakistani bowling attack till the bitter end in the final of the one day series in Melbourne. But at the end of that, talk was about his injury problems which came as music to the ears of the Australians who feared a revival that would have sent them down the ladder of world cricket.

Ambrose might be on his way out, but till he is around, he is a force to reckon with. Captain Courtney Walsh sums up his opening partner's value to the team when he said: "We can't afford to rest Curtly in Test matches."

The West Indies bowlers were recently put under the gun in England by an American made radar gun; though Ambrose rated slower than Benjamin, Walsh and Bishop (England's Devon Malcolm and Darren Gough were faster than all four), it was found that Ambrose utilised the greatest change in pace. It is with this that Ambrose will continue to add to his Test haul of 274 wickets (in 64 Tests at an average of 21.86). And, as for one day cricket, Ambrose can be impossible at the start of an innings and extremely difficult at the end....the ideal one-day artisan.

"Curtly gives you absolutely nothing to hit at all," says Dean Jones who has had a taste of the Ambrose medicine, "many people have tried to upset his rhythm in the hope that it will give you an edge. I tried it once, as we all know, and it didn't work. You try working out something to shake him up and maybe bowl a few loose ones, but he is such a good bowler that you cannot expect him to make errors. You have to force him to do something wrong."

This writer has not seen one player profile over the last few years which does not answer Curtly Ambrose to the question: "Who is the best bowler in world cricket"?

Especially if it's an angry Curtly Ambrose.



THE ICE **PRINCESS** MELTS! BY WILLIAM RHODES

Former Olympic gold medallist and World **Champion OKSANA** BAIUL was involved in a drunken accident recently. The decline and fall of one of the stars of the skating world

REMEMBER seeing Oksana Baiul skating at the '94 Lillehammer Olympics in day with translucent blue skies outside. While inside the stadium, it was a sizzlingly hot performance by this waif-like 16-year-old teenager. Her movements were so graceful; with her eyes, she flirted so outrageously with the audience while her skating was absolutely top class.

It came as no surprise to me and to the spectators when she won the gold medal. Although the American media and people were hoping that Nancy Kerrigan would win the medal. That was not to be. Oksana Baiul was in a class of her own; she was the deserving Olympic gold medallist.

Nearly three years later, things have changed so dramatically. An incident, last month, stunned skating fans all

Oksana Baiul skating at the '94 Lillehammer Olympics. She won the gold medal; this was the peak of her career

over the world. Nineteen-year-old Oksana Baiul, accompanied by a 30-year-old skater, Adam Zakarian, had crashed her brand new sparkling Mercedes Benz against a tree at 2.30 A.M. in the morning in Hartford, a town in the United States. She was speeding at 160 M.P.H.

When she was treated in a nearby hospital, (12 stitches were needed to close a scalp wound), she was found to have a blood alcoholic content of 0.168. The permissible blood alcoholic content in Hartford is 0.10. The police had to be notified. They came and framed charges of drunk driving against her. If she is convicted, she could spend six months in jail.

Before becoming Olympic champion in 1994, Oksana Baiul, in her very first attempt, became world

"She wants to be on her own, wants to live her own life, wants to have freedom. She got everything at 16. She couldn't handle it the proper way,"—Victor Petrenko, '92 Olympic Games medallist

champion in 1993. That was when the world first became aware of her spellbinding talent. She was only 15, the second youngest-ever to hold the title. (Sonja Henie holds the record when she won the title at age 14 in 1927). Her life was a fairy-tale come

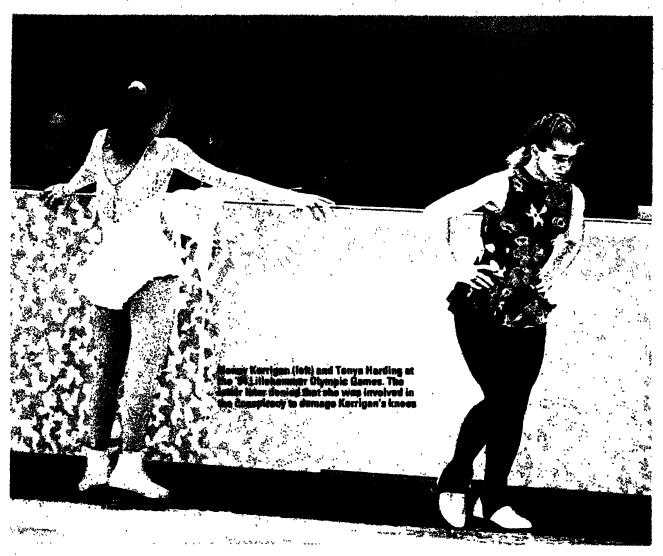
She was born in the Ukraine. Her father abandoned the family when she was two. Her mother died of ovarian cancer when she was 13. A few months later, her coach abandoned her. She was leading a very lonely existence in a sports school when she came to the attention of skating coach Galina Zmievskaya who lived in Odessa. She was training Victor Petrenko who had won a gold medal in the '92 Olympics.

Petrenko, along with Zmievskaya, looked at Baiul skating on a nearby rink; he realised that she had enormous talent and decided to sponsor her. She moved in with Zmievskaya's family in Odessa.

Two years later, Oksana Baiul had become the Olympic champion. Due to the worldwide television coverage. she became the most famous skater in the world. Corporate companies dangled contracts in front of her. Endorsements were in the millions of dollars. Things were going hunky

"She had no idea of the value of money," Petrenko remembers, "her first time in the United States, she

FEET OF CLAY



Women skating champions have fallen into trouble before

The British skating championships. A while later, tabloids showed photographs of her, teary-eyed after she was caught shoplifting. She vanished from skating thereafter. Of course, there is the famous Tonya Harding case. Today, she insists that she was the victim of the conspiracy to damage her rival, Nancy Kerrigan's knees. She says, "I knew nothing"

about the attack until after it had happened. I lied to the authorities only because my ex-husband threatened to shoot me if I didn't."

One is not sure whether to believe her or not. She gave up skating and tried to start a singing career. But that flopped when she was booed off stage. A frustrated Harding said, "Nancy has everything while I have nothing."

Not so very true Nancy Kerrigan also had an image problem. TV cameras in Lillehammer caught her complaining that Baiul was taking too much time to re-do her make-up and was holding up the medal ceremony. Later, in a parade for Disney, cameras again showed her looking mockingly at everything and saying, "This is so corny"

Take Katarina Witt, the 1984 and 88 Olympic champion. When she was young, she was known to be headstrong, passionate and a rebel. She conducted a secret affair with a fellow athlete that, if the East German authorities had come to know about, would have finished her career permanently.

W.R

Katarina Witt says that Oksana Baiul wants to be a rebel now; although the consequences have been tragic for the latter

walked around with money falling out of her pockets."

Petrenko, who had, by now, fallen in love and married Zmievskaya's daughter, moved along with his mother-in-law and Oksana permanently to the United States. They were living in a new skating facility at Hartford. Baiul had turned professional and signed lucrative touring contracts for about 100 shows a year. She had a deal to produce her own line of costume jewelry and skating apparel. She also bought and moved into a new \$450,000 homein nearby Simsbury. It seemed that everything was going well for her.

But that was only on the surface. In retrospect, this sudden infusion of wealth and fame derailed her. She lost her equanimity. As she grew older, she also began to change physically. She put on weight and gained four inches in height. (She was 5'2"in 1993.) One immediate result was that she could no longer perform those breathtaking jumps and axels that brought the crowd to their feet. She had to relearn her balance but that led to accidents and injuries and occasional withdrawals.

As she changed physically, (and possibly, mentally), she practised less and less. Friends said that she was more interested in shopping and partying rather than do hard training for performances that have so far earned her millions of dollars. Her skating skills deteriorated. In the last professional competition that she took part, she came ninth. It has been a case of too much money and spellbinding success much too soon.

"One can only guess at how dramatic the changes in Baiul's life must be," says Christine Brennan, author of *Inside Edge*, a best-selling book on international skating. Adds former Olympic gold medallist and skating legend Katarina Witt, who has skated with Baiul on many occasions, "I think she wants to be a little rebel now. When you are young and successful, you take success for



granted. It takes years to appreciate success. But she's young and wants to do what she wants."

Victor Petrenko analyses it this way: "I believe it is a teenager thing. She wants to be on her own, wants to live her own life, wants to have freedom. This, maybe, is the result. She got everything at 16. She couldn't handle it the right way."

Another skater on the tour, who preferred to be anonymous, said, "She's been given the royal treatment. That's a tough adjustment when you don't have a family to ground you."

of a talent. It's also a familiar sight. (See box). Too much fame and money and then the person goes haywire, believing that she can get away with anything. It is when society reacts negatively that the star gets a shock. Maybe, this shock of being charged for drunk driving will bring Oksana Baiul crashing back to earth and make her start concentrating on her life and work hard on her talent.

Hopefully, she will become once again what she already was: the best and the most famous skater in the world.

GOING UP THE WALL

In the past three years, wall climbing has become the rage in India's climbing centres

athletes in flamboyant bikers as they grip resin holds with chalk-dusted fingers and swarm up an artificial climbing wall in spiderman style is an unspeakably serious task for Rajan S. Ghadge.

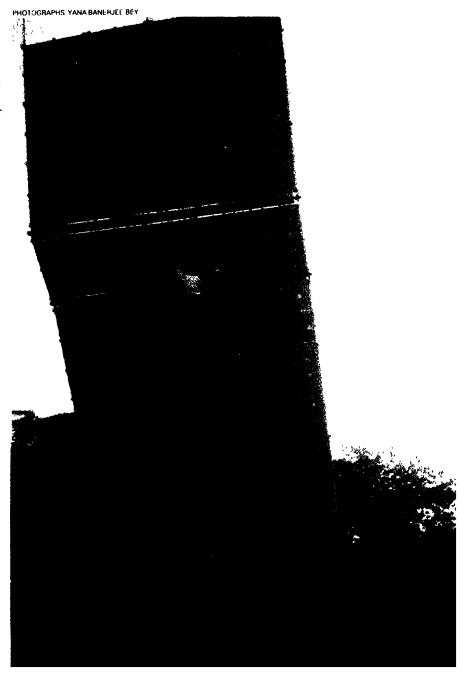
The only Indian to have undergone an international course in judging rock wall competitions, he is one of just 44 qualified judges in the world. This elite league is recognised by the International Union of Alpinise Association (UIAA), the apex organisation of climbing.

Competition or sport climbing, in which participants haul themselves up severely overhanging walls by using hand and foot holds along routes set to test stamina and expertise, established itself in the West as an extension of rock climbing several years ago.

Over the last three years, it has become the rage in India's climbing centres with competition walls sprouting in Delhi, Bangalore, Calcutta and Bikaner while Mumbai and Pune are yet to get theirs. Walls for training and practice have also been built in the mountaineering institutes in Darjeeling and Manali; climbers' homes all over the country are filling with improvised walls of various sizes, angles and material.

A growing number of all-India, zonal and state-level competitions are

A participant in the second national climbing championships held at New Delhi last month



A Climbing Prodigy

11-year-old S.Y.SRINIVASA has the makings of a world-class competition climber

THE second national climbing championship held by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation in New Delhi in January brought onto the national scene 11-year-old S.Y.Srinivasa, who has the makings of a world-class competition climber.

The national meet included events for boys and girls under 16 for the first time and brought into the limelight talented youngsters from Bangalore, Delhi and Calcutta. But Srinivasa, who was the shortest participant in the boys' event and disadvantaged only by his height, caught the judges' eye.



held every winter; the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, the regulatory body of climbing in the country, has held a national championship for the last two years. This year's championship, held in January on the JRD Tata Memorial Rock Wall on the Foundation premises, saw Ghadge officiate as chief judge.

It was his first judging event since attending the International Judges Course and Seminar on Open Rock Wall Climbing Competition in Seoul, South Korea, last March. "Only two of us passed the course, Jae Wook-Kim of South Korea and I," he says proudly.

Ghadge's seven coursemates were climbers from the US, Hong Kong, Thailand and South Korea where competition climbing is more advanced than in India. Conducted by veteran climbers Sang Tae Cho, president of the Asian branch of the UIAA's Comite International des Competitions d'Escalade, and Marco Scolaris of Italy, the three-day course explored all aspects of climbing and judging.

The trainee judges were required to climb a fairly severe route ("there were a few tricks thrown in," smiles



Ghadge) with the qualifying height stipulated as six metres. "As a trainee climbed, he and his belayer were both being evaluated," says Ghadge. Belay refers to the support provided by way of a safety rope to the mobile climber by his partner.

A trained mountaineer, Ghadge found the course's theory and practical exercises partly a reminder of what he already knew. "But I learnt a lot about applying the technical and administrative rules which govern competition climbing in various situations," he says.

Ghadge is now qualified to judge all climbing competitions, including any of the World Cup series of competitions. The series includes World, Continental and Youth (under 16) championships, and Bouldering and Masters (over 40) competitions.

Ghauge's first assignment as a qualified judge was to accompany Delhi's Manish Gupta to Singapore for the fitth invitational Asian championship last June. Gupta, winner of the 1996 national climbing competition organised by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, was the sole Indian participant and Ghadge officiated as coach.

Coming from a working-class background, he was discovered by an adventure club on the outskirts of Bangalore. Introduced to rock climbing two months before the national competition, he insisted his only handicap during his climb was that he was "unable to see holds above my head though I had plenty of energy left."

A Class V student, Srinivasa is being educated by his elder brother who is in computers. School also affords Srinivasa the opportunity to play cricket. He is fond of eating ragi balls, though he does not know it is also Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's favourite dish.



Rajan Ghadge is the only Indian who has qualified as an international grade judge. There are just 44 qualified judges around the world.

As security officer with Air India in Mumbai, Ghadge, 30, has also displayed a talent for detecting contraband in luggage. A natural sportsman, he relaxes by playing kabaddi, football and cricket.

Yana Banerjee-Bey

MEMORIES OF ANOTHER DAY

South African former rugby captain, FRANCOIS PIENNAR reminisces on his intense and transforming relationship with President Nelson Mandela

NSPIRATION. That is what people with charisma, a magnetic personality and who believe in values and convictions, provide to the masses. In this century one highly inspirational figure has been Nelson Mandela. Not just in South Africa, but all over the world, Mandela is regarded as the leader of the downtrodden, and as the messiah who spent the best years of his life fighting the dreaded system of apartheid.

Another well recorded fact is that Mandela is a keen sportsman. He is a regular figure at cricket and rugby matches in South Africa. In fact, when the President was imprisoned on Robben Island, the first thing he insisted was that there should be a tennis court in the prison yard.

A person very close to the President is one Francois Piennar, a much admired sportsman in South Africa. Piennar was the captain of the South African rugby team which won the World Cup in 1995. Theirs is a relationship that has been nurtured over the years and is one based totally on trust and convictions.

Piennar, who is a Presbyterian liberal and is South Africa's most influential sportsman had always abhorred apartheid and used to take time off to train the poor schoolchildren in the alleys of Soweto when apartheid was still in place, and when it was not socially fashionable to mix with the blacks, as it is today.

Piennar was highly influenced by

Mandela and that is the reason why he took his team to Robben Island a day before the World Cup started. Standing in the cell where the President languished for 18 long years, Piennar dedicated the team's forthcoming efforts to Nelson Mandela. Then after their match against the Australians, Piennar gifted one of his Springbok jersies to the President.

It was after the final however that Piennar was to get one of the best surprises of his life. As Piennar recalled, "Up until the final whistle against the All Blacks, the foremost thought in my mind was winning the World Cup. But when I saw the President walking towards me wearing the Springbok jersey with my number on it, I knew that this was a victory far, far important than anything we'd ever achieve on the pitch."

It was an incident that has etched a permanent impression on Piennar's mind and he explained, "Other Presidents would have worn their best silk suits. When Mr Mandela chose to wear my Springbok shirt, it symbolised change, the coming together of a nation. The new South Africa was actually born then." Incidentally the Springbok was a symbol of white supremacy and indicated the superiority of the Afrikaans after the Boer War.

In fact, more than the euphoria of winning the World Cup it was the fierce patriotism the win evoked that

has moved Piennar so much. It was the sense of being accepted by the President that overwhelmed Piennar. He went on to elaborate, "The emotion of beating New Zealand in the final on South African soil so soor after the political revolution was a fairy tale. I know it is a cliche but that what it was for me, a fairy tale. As a boy I'd never dared dream I'd ever be Springbok. So to be the captain of a Springbok team which beat the best i the world—watched by a black President—was totally beyond my imagination."

Since that eventful day Mandela and Piennar have been constant friends and the former has remained source of inspiration for the latter South African captain. In fact, after hwas unceremoniously dumped by the new Springbok coach, Andre Markgraaf, for zealously supporting the rugby union's switch to professionalism, he turned to the President for advice.

When Piennar was later offered a job to join the north London club 'Saracens', it was again Mandela he turned to for advice. Piennar reminiscenced, 'I telephoned Mr Mandela from London to discuss the move and if he had asked me to stay I would have done so. But after we talked for about a quarter of an hour or so, the President gave me his blessing, though he said he hoped I would come back some day and play a role in the South Africa of the future.'

It is interesting to note that while



Pienner reises aloft the '95 World Cup trophy; the greatest moment of his career and of the new, united South Africa

the new coach is irked by Piennar's support to professionalism, the President admires the ex-captain's revolutionary trait. Before he left for England, Piennar and his wife were invited to the President's private retreat. It was another day that Piennar would not forget in a hurry. He remembered, "He invited me and my wife Nerine to lunch at his private retreat before we left for England. That's a day I'll always remember. It

was fantastic just to talk to him, to hear his views on the world, on life, to be wanted by your President. As everyone probably knows, he has an impressive aura. His easiness, his compassion, his humility."

Piennar continued, "When he met Nerine for the first time at the state banquet to celebrate our World Cup victory, his opening words were: 'would you feel offended if I came to your wedding?' Nerine's jaw just hit the table. She was really stunned by how incredibly humble the man was."

The relationship flourishes. The President is extremely happy to have found a friend in Piennar, and the ex-captain is more than thrilled in having Mandela as his friend, confidant and most importantly a constant source of inspiration.

K O.Jacob

Packer's Circus, Australian
Packer's Circus, Australian
cricket administrators have
constantly come up with innovations
and gimmicks to catch the attention of
spectators, so as to keep the turnstiles
moving. Live entertainment during
the break, freeflowing beer, picnic
spots in the stands and now even
players in shorts with numbers (the
size seen on American football players)
on their shirts and an orange ball for
Sheffield Shield cricket: you name it,
the Aussies have done it all.

Ironically, the Aussie cricket authorities now have a different problem on their hands. How to keep people out. Specifically how to keep the cricket "louts" out of cricket matches. The recent one day series Down Under saw an alarming increase in the number of "louts" who invaded the grounds, time and time again, disrupting matches.

Unlike in India and other parts of the sub continent, Australian

spectators do not have fencing around the stands to keep spectators off the playing area. But repeated invasions have given rise to calls for "cages" to be built around Australian grounds.

Other alternatives to check this growing trend is to arrest and fine the culprits and even ban them from cricket matches all over the country. The authorities are now taking the help of English football to give them tips on how to monitor known hooligans.

As the Australian cricket community prepares to introduce stift measures, it seems the Kiwis have been thinking literally. Cricket administrators in New Zealand have been caught out paying a streaker to perform a nude dash. Fewer than 3000 spectators at a Shell Cup game between Auckland and Wellington in Wellington were treated to the spectacle of a streaker running aimlessly around the ground before

CARTOON ARTHUR CARDOZO

he was arrested—and here's the funny part—by a woman cop and bundled out of the arena.

It was later revealed that the "hooligan" was a professional strippe in a ladies-only nightclub and was puup to the gig by Wellington cricket officials. The "cop" was also a performer, a local actress paid and outfitted by the officials.

Apparently New Zealand cricket administrators had, much like those in Australia, decided to try and jazz ur domestic cricket with music and entertainment. Obviously, the persor in charge of pre-match and mid-match entertainment at Basin Reserve had gone over the top in an effort to get more bums on seats at the ground.

As one local newspaper put it: "We guess he decided to do this as an extre A bit of a bonus—if you like looking a nude males."

Or maybe this was an extension of the across-the-Tasman effort to make the game more attractive to women.

If you thought streaking was just for louts—and strippers—well then check this out. A few days after the Wellington strip, a leading Australian motorcycle rider, while in Perth for a race, actually streaked across the field prior to a soccer match featuring two of the leading local teams. His excuse, "My whole life is dictated by the unusual, the risky, the different. It's all about adrenalin."

In big doses for sure. Much like the naked woman—described as a fair-skinned blonde, about 35 years old—who managed to stop shoppers and traffic recently when she walked through a shopping centre, crossed a main road and waited for a train in Sydney. The police apparently escorted her home, according to reports.

Whether they covered her up on the train journey or not we are not told, but word is that some Kiwi cricket administrators are in Sydney—million dollar contract in hand—trying to get the name and address of the lady.

What a real streak of luck! Andy O'Brien, Australia





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W O R L D

CHIMA OKERIE MAKES A COMEBACK

ECH SINGELY ELYP).

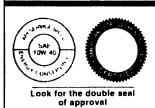
With the South African campaign behind him, SACHIN TENDULKAR sprinted for the tough four of the West Indies

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LOOKING AHEAD!

17

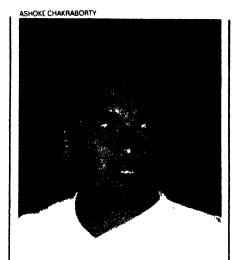
With the South African campaign behind him, Sachin Tendulkar is primed for the tough tour of the West Indies

THE LEGACY OF A TITAN

In retrospect, Pargat Singh has been one of the great defenders in the history of Indian hockey

THE IMPERFECT HERO!

Andre Agassi continues to baffle fans with his up and down career









THE INDIAN DEBACLE

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PHOTO FEATURE: SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKET FANS

RISING UP: ZIMBABWE

BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

IS RONALDO THE NEW PELE?

4.5

TAXING RELATIONSHIP: PETER & STEFFI GRAF

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BULA CHOWDHURY

4

PINCH HITTERS AND THEIR ROLE IN MODERN CRICKET

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS OF SACHIN TENDULKAR AND CHIMA OKERIE BY ASHOKE CHAKRARORTY

DOWNIN PHOTOGRAPHS RAMAL JULKA THE DUN

achin Tendulkar's

intermittent brilliance and the team's overdependence on him apart from a lack of fighting spirit combined to make the South African tour a disaster for the Indians

BY SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL

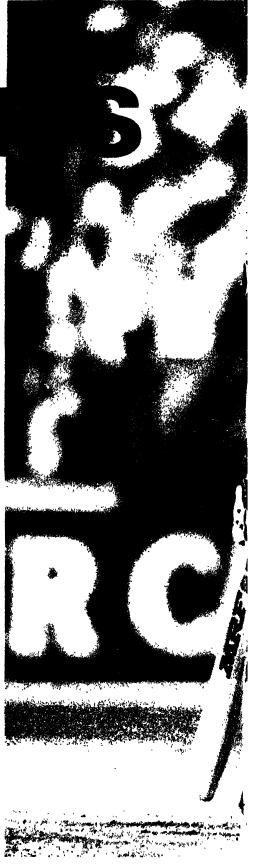
IKE PROCTOR thinks
Sachin Tendulkar is the
world's greatest
batsman. Well, millions
will agree with the South African
selector, but by no means is this an
indisputable fact. Many would prefer
to describe him as one of the best. Not
the best. But there seems to be no
dispute at all of one fact: at the
moment Sachin Tendulkar is India's
greatest worry.

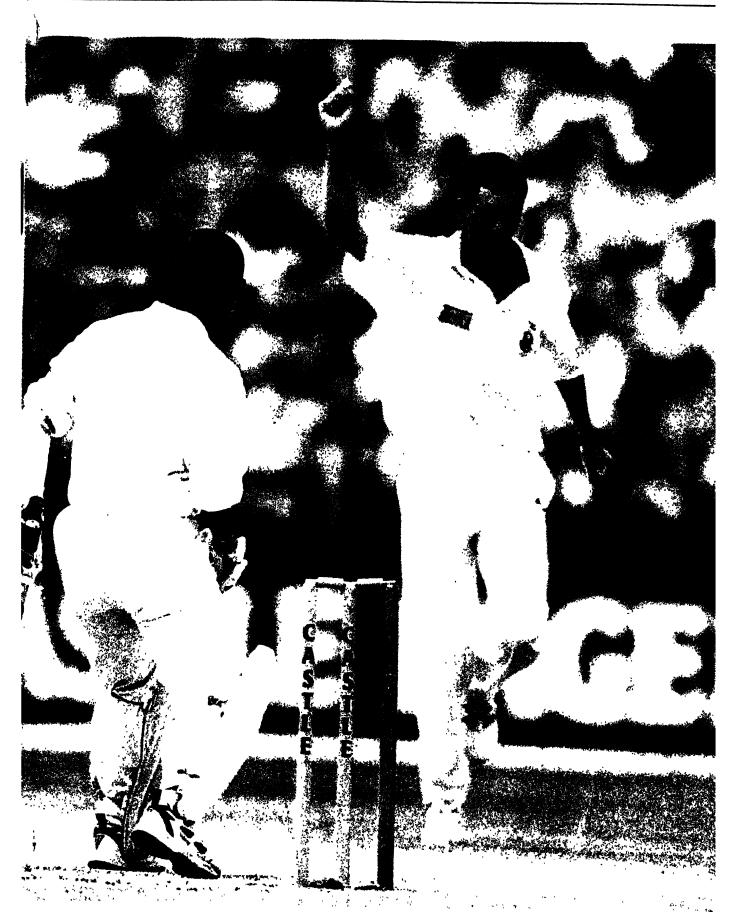
He is India's new skipper; he is India's greatest asset. And he is faltering. Runs are often proving harder and harder to come by; the high hopes his coronation had kindled, ending the gloom of the late Azharuddin era, have begun to wear off. What is most worrying about this is that in his time, when Azharuddin failed, there was Sachin Tendulkar for us to pin our hopes on. But if Sachin Tendulkar falters, there is no one else to turn to.

Moreover, an off-form Tendulkar is a psychololgical liability too. Every time the stocky young man starts his long walk back from the crease, his head hanging on his chest in despair, it is not just a premature end to a promising innings; it is a debilitating blow to the team's morale too. The opposition immediately smells blood, the pressure mounts, the attack sharpens as India totters.

India should not, though. For Sachin Tendulkar may be Mike Proctor's favourite as the world's greatest batsman, but he is not the only talented, experienced bat in the Indian squad. Two generations of batting talent is there intact in the Indian arsenal. Together, they were supposed to be a formidable force. But unfortunately, in most cases, neither experience nor youth has been able to rescue India at its hour of gravest crises. If Dravid and Ganguly represented the new youth brigade, then its explosions and fireworks have taken place only in fits and starts. Though, on some occasions, they

Hansie Cronje led from the front with brilliant captaincy and a penetrative bowling skill





have contributed richly to their team's totals, they have exposed some vital weaknesses too.

Their lack of understanding while running between the wickets has proved to be unpardonably unprofessional, for instance. At Port Elizabeth, Saurav Ganguly plunged India into despair by getting ridiculously run out quite early in the innings. Dravid had sent him back, but Ganguly's response was sluggish, sort of casual. It seemed that Ganguly thought Dravid's signal was not worth

heeding to. This was strange, and ludicrously unacceptable at this level of professional cricket. Especially, when the opposition is known for its tremendous fielding prowess.

Relentless aggression has been the characteristic feature of India's opponents. Accuracy, and sharpness in taking catches and sending sluggish batsmen swiftly back to the pavilion have paid rich dividends. India seemed to learn little from their

Sauray Ganguly: his running between the wickets has been atrocious

opponents, nor did they seem capable of emulating them.

The South Africans have been particularly successful in putting up a well-versed attack, bowling almost amazingly to the field. In addition, Allan Donald has been spectacularly successful in breaking India's back time and again.

Sachin Tendulkar has been hopelessly vulnerable to Donald—one of the most amazing and dismal features of India's recent cricketing misadventures.



Experts opined that the trouble originates from a flaw in Sachin's technique. Dilip Vengsarkar thinks "he gets beaten by the pace as he reacts a fraction of a second too late to the incoming delivery. Though his front foot is well down the wicket, his bat appears to descend from third man. And since he plays at the delivery a bit late, the gap between bat and pad remains open a fraction longer than it should."

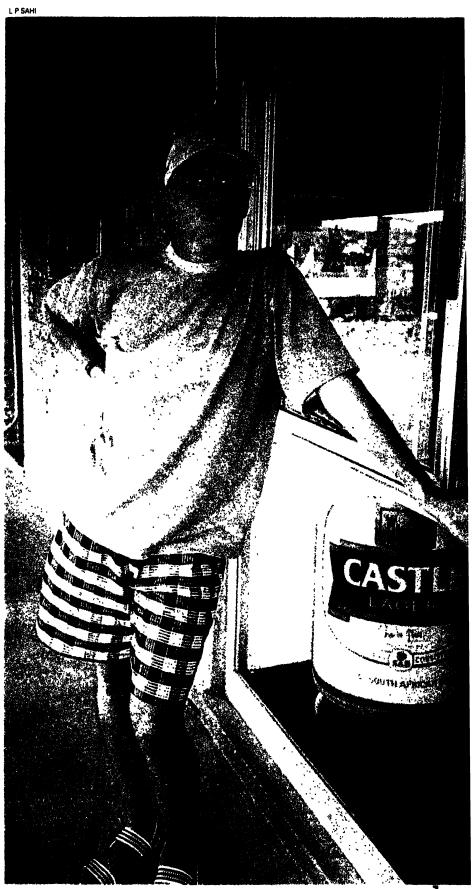
Tendulkar, of course, has made his presence felt, especially in the match against Zimbabwe, undoubtedly one of the most spectacular moments in the whole tournament, but the downside to the phenomenon of Tendulkar is that his success always makes his side more dependable on him. When India unexpectedly moved to the final, all eyes immediately focussed on Tendulkar as the only possible messiah.

This obviously means tremendous pressure on the young man, who has to put up with other problems as the side's skipper. After the stunning Zimbabwe success he said he hoped his sleepless nights would now come to an end. But the very next day, it was his own mediocrity, despite a good start, and that of his teammates, which pushed him back to square one.

Sachin's first runs in the replayed final came off a scorching square cut past the most brilliant fielder in the world today, Jonty Rhodes, rekindling hopes for some more fireworks among his fans. And, at the other end, Saurav made no secret of his aggressive intentions just as he was expected to. But Saurav obviously over-reacted to the challenge that South Africa had posed; he soon mistimed and the ball rose high enough to give Allan Donald enough time to run and complete a well-judged catch.

Sachin had already been facing the dilemma of selecting the team's best opening partner, and he admitted that it took him considerably long and hard thinking to finally decide that he

Allan Donald: time and again, he broke the back of the Indian innings by taking the prize wicket of Tendulkar





LOOKING AHEAD

INTERVIEWED BY SABYASACHI SARKAR, JOHANNESBURG

two years? Could that be a possible reason for the below par performance?

Yeah, too much cricket without any rest does have a harmful effect on a cricketer's career. It can even reduce the life span of a cricketer. This applies not only to India, but to all the Test-playing nations. I personally feel that cricket-schedules should be flexible enough to give the much needed rest to the players.

The lack of a genuine third seamer in the Indian team has been frequently been discussed on the South African tour. There has been virtually nobody to support Srinath and Prasad. Some feel this is one of the major factors for the debacle in South Africa. What is your opinion?

No, that was not the only reason. It is not fair to expect too much from Ganesh and Johnson at this point of their career. But it's a fact that we need more genuine pacers. Some quickies. Let me tell you that Srinath. and Prasad have given me much more in this tour than what I expected. Now we are looking forward to the tour of West Indies —it will be a very important tour for us, I don't want Srinath and Prasad to overstrain themselves; too-three pacers are just not enough for the tour of West Indies. I will inform the selectors about it.

Finding a good opening pair is another serious problem you face, specially in the Test matches.

How do you plan to tackle this problem? What is the solution?

It all started in the last season. We tried many combinations but nothing clicked. I have confidence in Rathore. At Wanderers, he clicked. It is not wise to change your Test opening pair frequently. At the same time you need a good start for the middle order to breathe freely. In the first two Tests in South Africa, we didn't get a good start. If you ask me, I don't want to change my opening pair frequently even during the tour to West Indies. Rathore is a good batsman. Mongia

plays the new ball with confidence. In Wanderers they did their Job well. And we couldn't make it 2-1 because the weather betrayed us.

Cricket pundits have began referring to India as 'Tigers at home, rats abroad'. How do you react to this not-so-flattering tag? (Laughs): Well, it doesn't really bother me. When you play badly, these comments are perhaps inevitable. But all said and done, it was for everyone to see how suited

Sechin Tendulkar with Sunil Gavasker and Hansie Cronje. Both the captains got a couple of invaluable tips on cricket from the genius





Trever Quirk interviewing Tendulkar after a match. The mantle of captaincy, and that of India's most crucial player, has come to sit comfortably on Tendulkar's shoulders

the Kingsmead track was to fast bowling. To put it mildly, it was a hundred-per-cent bowler's track. And it suited the South Africans pretty well.

Going by that logic, aren't we guilty on that count also? I mean making designer spinning tracks, and demolishing sides not particularly adept in playing spin?

Don't you feel it's high time we changed the nature of domestic pitches in order to make a mark abroad on hostile pitches?

All countries prepare pitches keeping their advantages and disadvantages in mind. We did it back home, the South Africans have done the same on their home soil. So I don't think any drastic overhauling of the pitch policy is necessary right now. What I feel is most important is to organise special coaching camps comprising 20-25 cricketers on hard tracks before we go on an overseas tour. We didn't have any such camp prior to this tour; there simply wasn't enough time. I know of a few places in India having sufficiently hard wickets. For example, the Mohali track or the wicket at Baroda or at Valsar. Practice on these tracks will yield results. The domestic system should not be changed overnight. The transition, if any, has to be gradual.

Some experts subscribe to the view that you judge your colleagues by the same outstanding yardstick that you've set for yourself. But after all what appears easy to Sachin Tendulkar may be quite different for others....

(Laughs): Not really. When somebody fails to click, I take it easy. Usually I pay a visit to the concerned cricketer's room. Crack a joke or two and try to help him relax. I never judge my colleagues by the same yardstick. I judge them according to their abilities. There's one single point I stress in cricket discussions with my



teammates: don't give up so easily.

What I want from my colleagues as the captain is hundred percent commitment. A fierce self pride —the pride of representing the country. So it is our moral duty to give something back to the nation. This apart, I exspect a one-track mind set from my teammates. When you are playing for the nation you should always focus on the game and nothing else.

Some feel that the pressure of leading the side is telling on you.

I am enjoying my captaincy to the hilt. These days I come across questions as to whether captaincy is affecting my batting. But the fact of the matter is these questions arise only when you are not getting runs. If you hit a couple of tons nobody talks about captaincy and the attendant pressures. It is as simple as that.

How does it feel to be the losing captain in an important overseas Test series? Surely the feeling could not have been too good?

Tendulker with Maden Lal: The two wise men who are entrusted with the job to make the indian cricket team into a cohesive, fighting unit

Well, when you're playing international cricket, you've to be a bit thick-skinned. If you go on thinking about the criticisms all the time, it makes your task that much more difficult. One should not be thoroughly crestfallen with a couple of defeats nor be unduly overjoyed with a victory.

GEAST!

ZIMBABWE, with fine performances in the series against England and the tri-series in South Africa, have shown that they are no longer the rabbits in international cricket

BY T.S VENKATARAMAN

ENTURION PARK in
Pretoria, South Africa
played hosts to what was an
epochal event. It was
Zimbabwe's first match of their

Zimbabwe's first match of their maiden tour of South Africa.
Although South Africa was readmitted to the comity of cricket nations in 1991, it is still surprising that there have been no visits by a team from neighbouring Zimbabwe.

It was like Australia and New Zealand not having had any cricket exchanges between 1946 and 1972. So, Zimbabwe playing in South Africa should represent some kind of a historical event. Zimbabwe are now a tull member of the ICC and they have been playing one-day internationals longer than South Africa. Zimbabwe played in the World Cup in 1983 while South Africa made its first international appearance, after years of isolation, in India in 1991.

While in the recent past it may have been possible to view Zimbabwe as a team fed by a scarce bank of players in a couple of cities, the time may have come for the team to remind the world of its days of glory when, in the 1983 World Cup, the Zimbabweans roared like lions in downing the Aussies

Grant Flower in action against South Africa. Zimbabwe is getting better day by day 16 Besides the ex-coach Dave Houghton who is back as player and who is still capable of making runs at this level, Alistair Campbell's team also has Heath Streak who should be ranked among the world's top 10 fast bowlers.

Streak who admires Dennis Lilee the most and who travelled to Chennai to train under the pace guru, is one of the better performers among contemporary fast bowlers. He spearheaded the Zimbabwean attack in the Standard Bank tri-series. Streak, with his county experience, was able to raise Zimbabwe from the poor performances in Sri Lanka in the

Singer Cup when the team was not playing better than an average club side.

Things may have changed since then. They defeated England 3-0. The ball is really in Zimbabwe's court. It must prove, it is equal to the task of living up to the status conferred on it. Alistair Campbell, the 24-year-old Zimbabwe captain has got another year's extension as captain. Last year he succeeded Andy Flower, who stepped down from the captaincy as he wanted to concentrate on batting. Campbell felt the team's "apprenticeship in the sub-continent (Pakistan) during the World Cup has







stood it in good stead."

"We have improved a lot, to tell you the truth. We know how to play tough cricket. We have come a long way since we returned from Pakistan. Our tesults show it. One of our weaknesses has been the lack of depth. That aspect is being taken care of now. We will become better once our players get more exposure. The average age of the team is 22 or 23. We have ten professionals in the team now," said Campbell, under whose leadership Zimbabwe drew the Test series and won the one-day international series 3-0 against England.

At a press conference organised by the United Cricket Board Of South Africa. (UCBSA), one of the expected questions was on Zimbabwe's reaction to the remarks made by England team coach David Lloyd who said, "We murdered them."

"Oh...that statement did not hurt us. They spurred us to perform. We played some disciplined cricket with patience and pride. And I reckon we ought to be one of the best fielding sides in world cricket.

"The English Press is brought up on sensationalism...they blow things out

The Zimbabwe team posing for a photograph before the start of the Tri-series in South Africa

of proportion. But David Lloyd did say that "England murdered us" and things like that. I cannot imagine a cricket manager of the England team making statements like that. I did not agree with that. But Mike Atherton, in a recent article, set the record straight saying we played better cricket," Campbell said.

"I think we deserved what we got against England. They kept on saying we don't know to play cricket... we showed them we can play cricket and win matches consistently. We have two fine bowlers in Heath Streak and Paul Strang. We also have Eddo Brandes, who loves to bowl to the English batsmen. He has got back his outswinger and bowls fast now. He could be the danger man.

"We have shown that we can win matches. Earlier we used to win a match here and there, once in two months and maybe once in a year. That was not good for Zimbabwe cricket. We were not used to winning. But against England we won three. That's the kind of progress we are looking for," he said.

UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH!

British Airways comes up with a thrilling experience for underprivileged children

RITISH AIRWAYS came up with a novel idea. They decided that they would give 200 underprivileged children from organisations like the Missionaries of Charity, SOS Village, Future Hope, Centre for Handicapped Children, etc., a ride in a Boeing 747, something that even ordinary middle class people cannot afford. Appropriately, they called it a 'Flight Of Fantasy'.

The result: a thrilled group of young people, looking zapped, wide-eyed and delighted. The crew was solicitous; the General Manager of South Asia, Mr.Kevin Steele was the clown, clad in a polka dot gown and rouged cheeks with a small pointed cap on his head.

On the hour-long flight, cold drinks were served, sweets were distributed, cartoons were shown and just when things were getting boring, the crew

initiated a pillow fight that sent spirits soaring.

Kapil Dev was the chief guest. He was charming and friendly but some of his famous *joie de vivre* was missing. (Is he missing his great cricket career too much?)

Another thought that occured: how come Indian Airlines or Air India did not come up with an idea like this? Why is that foreigners, from a country thousands of kilometres away, felt the imperative to do this for poor children of another land, while here we are, treating our poor like furniture: seen but not acknowledged. We hardly do anything to help them. We depend on



Kapil Dev adds his star presence among the children on the 'Flight of Fantasy'



A few among the 200 children aboard the British Airways Boeing 747 flight

Mother Teresa to do all the necessary acts of charity....

Congrats British Airways for a most wonderful idea. The airlines with the social service attitude.

Keep it up!

Shevlin Sebastian

Hats-off

Larts-OFF to Rahul Dravid
Land Sourav Ganguly for
their brilliant batting display in
both the innings of the third Test
versus South Africa. Though they
did not score many runs in the
first and second Tests, the
manner in which they went
about their jobs, it was always
evident that it was just a matter of
time before they started getting big
scores; that's what we saw in the
final Test

Being among the runs in the pacy and bouncy South African tracks against Donald & Co. would surely do them a world of good and give them loads of confidence before the tough battle ahead against the West Indian quickies.

Unfortunately, throughout the series, we did not get to see
Sachin Tendulkar in his customary authoritative style, it certainly is a matter of concern

for Indian cricket. He will have to think real hard about his batting and detect the shortcomings and rectify it quickly in the nets; India badly needs lots of runs from the captain's blade, if they want to come up triumphs against the West Indies in the Test series.

BIJAN BANDYOPADHYAY, Calcutta

Fast Pitches Needed

THE Indian team's dismal performance in South Africa has clearly showed that the Indians are really unable to cope with the pace bowling on fast pitches.

If such fast pitches are not prepared immediately in India, they will have to suffer the same humiliation we suffered in South Africa in the future.

SUSOBHAN SARKAR, Nadia



Dare-Devil Tactics

It would be an understatement to say that there is a certain belligerent air to Azharuddin's batting lately. Whatever the reasons for his dare-devil tactics, Azhar the batsman has definitely dropped his high standards. He is a class batsman, few will refute that, but of late the elegance and the grace seems to be an elusive

commodity.

He is getting the runs, and his batting might be described as "entertaining", but he is looking more like a slogger than a strokeplayer. Such a pity that a batsman of Azhar's calibre has sought to embrace such tactics. PAYAL DHAR, New Delhi

Sensational!

THE spotlight on Jonty
Rhodes, "The Rhodes, Scholar
(Sportsworld, 4th Dec. '96) was
sensational. It was very
informative and I got to know a
lot about the most electrifying
fielder in the world."

it is astonishing how he has become such a favourite of chicket fans in India today. I wish him continued success in his career.

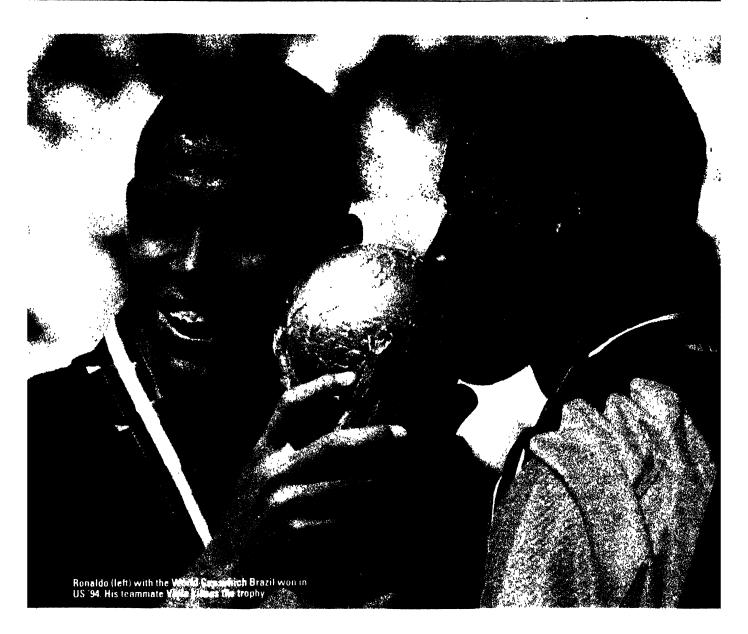
AMET BHATTACHARYA.

Splendid Issue

THANKS a lot for the very first issue of '97. (Sportsworld dated 1-14 Jan.). If was really splendid!

The interviews with Border, Woolmer and Dravid; the features on Gary Kirsten, Brian McMillan, and last but not the least, the cover story on Azharuddin are all worth reading again and again.

RAJNISH AGARWAL Visakhapatnam



THE NEW PARTIES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT



immensely gifted Brazilian striker RONALDO, voted the 1996 FIFA World Footballer Of The Year, seems destined to become an all-time great

BY NOVY KAPADIA

OME are born great, some achieve greatness and some are thrust into greatness. The rave reviews and honours that Brazil's latest sensation, Ronaldo, the World Player Of The Year for 1996 has received imply that he was born great. By the age of 20, when most youngsters are struggling to manage a first team place, with their club side. Ronaldo has achieved unprecedented greatness. A World Cup winners' medal in 1994, an Olympic bronze medal in 1996 and numerous club honours. So, he is no newcomer to greatness and there is no question of greatness being thrust upon him.

The sheer magnitude of Ronaldo's achievements are mind-boggling. In his first year with Barcelona FC, the 20-year-old talented Brazilian striker has displayed enough potential to impress the 120 national squad coaches who nominate the international player of the year. Ronaldo whose full name is Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima received a total of 329 points way ahead of his nearest rival George Weah of Liberia with 140 points and England's mercurial striker Alan Shearer top scorer of Euro '96 who bagged 123 points. The voting procedure is simple. Each coach lists his three preferences for World Player of the Year. The first preference player gets five points, the second choice three points and the third choice player bags just one point.

Besides this competition, the world's premier football magazine, World Soccer also conducts a survey of its readers to choose the greatest player in the world. Readers from

countries as diverse as Iraq,
Madagascar, Greenland, Fiji and
Falklands besides all European
countries chose Ronaldo as their
World Player of 1996. He received
16.36 per cent of the votes, followed by
England's favourite player Alan
Shearer who got 14.42 per cent of the
votes. Ronaldo is the yougest-ever
winner and the first unconnected
with Italy either through club or
country, since this award commenced
in 1982.

Now FIFA started their poll to choose World Player of the Year in 1991. Ronaldo is the second Brazilian amongst the six players chosen for this coveted award in earlier years. The previous winners were Lothar

Matthaeus (Germany in 1991, Marco van Basten (Holland) in 1992, Roberto Baggio (Italy) in 1993, Romario (Brazil) in 1994 and George Weah (Liberia) in 1995. Only twice before has the choice of FIFA Player of the Year and World Soccer Player of the Year coincided. Baggio in 1993 and Marco van Basten in 1992 were chosen as the best players in the world by both the fans and the coaches. Now Ronaldo has emulated this feat. On other occasions World Soccer readers chose Jean Pierre Papin of Marseille and France in 1991, Paolo Maldini of Milan and Italy in 1994 and Gianluca Vialli of Juventus and Italy in 1995 as the Players of the Year.

Not only critics but even



"You can go anywhere you like in the world, and you won't find a player who can score goals like Ronaldo. He's only 20 but can anvbody. anywhere, show me a better olaver.... Bobby Robson, former England



hard-boiled and experienced coaches and former internationals, not easily given to emotion, drool over his magical skills. His club (Barcelona F.C. of Spain) coach, the experienced Bobby Robson, England's manager in the 1986 and 1990 World Cups and previously coach of PSV Eindhoven and F.C. Porto says, "You can go anywhere you like in the world, and you won't find a player who can score goals like Ronaldo. He's only 20 but can anybody, anywhere, show me a better player. I don't think I've ever seen a player at 20 have so much".

Pele calls him 'A golden player'. There are many similarities between the 'Black Pearl of Santos' the incomparable Pele and the heir apparent Ronaldo. Both emerged from humble origins and achieved wealth and fame by their sublime football skills. Their superlative dribbling, ball control and spectacular goals has made both Pele and Ronaldo the most talked about players of their time. Ronaldo like Pele has won a World Cup winners' medal at the age of 17. In fact, he is the youngest Brazilian international after Pele. However, in the 1958 World Cup, Pele who started playing from the quarter finals onwards was a star performer on the field. Ronaldo only warmed the bench in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Pele is not grudging in his praise but feels that comparisons are obvious as it needlessly puts pressure on young Ronaldo. Lavishing praise on Brazil's latest sensation, Pele says, "He is an exquisite footballer who lives to score goals. It doesn't matter how you mark Ronaldo, it's impossible to intimidate him. He's got great confidence in his own abilities and also the qualities to become a world-beater." However, Pele feels that Ronaldo is not as creative as compared to Diego Maradona. Instead, he feels that Ronaldo is similar to the ultimate consummate finisher, the cool and clinical Marco van Basten.

Brazil's coach Mario Zagalo, the only man besides Beckenbauer to have won the World Cup as both a player and coach, feels that Ronaldo is already the best centre-forward in the world and with his natural talents, he will get "better and better." However, Zagalo feels that Ronaldo is at times very individualistic and is not as great a passer of the ball as Pele.

Ronaldo has all the silky skills associated with a classy Brazilian forward. However, there is one aspect which makes him very unique. His greatest virtue is that he always takes the shortest route to goal. At times, he is a very European-style forward with his speed on the ball and strength to shield the ball from hustling defenders. He is probably the fastest Brazilian forward ever. The only previous Brazilian forward to match him in speed and strength was Jairzinho, the top scorer in Brazil's 1970 World Cup triumph. Incidentally, it is Jairzinho who is credited with discovering Ronaldo or Rinaldinho as he is known in Brazil.

Some of Ronaldo's individual goals are quite incredible. In a match at Santiago de Compostella in October, Ronaldo embarked on a mesmerising 40-yard run in which he beat five players before scoring an exquisite goal, which left the fans screaming in amazement. This goal made Ronaldo a legend. At the Nou Camp, he is a legend and is already being favourably compared to several greats of previous Barcelona teams like Marco Van Basten, Diego Maradona and Romario, Fans adore Ronaldo not only for his goals but the way he scores them, weaving or bull-dozing his way past hapless defenders, the ball clinging to his feet. At 6 ft and weighing 172 pounds or about 78 kgs, Ronaldo has the physique, muscular shoulders and biceps to shrug off the toughest of defenders. Ronaldo's No.9 jersey is in every souvenir shop at Barcelona.

In July 1996, Barcelona bought Ronaldo for a then record 12.2 million pounds from PSV Eindhoven. The high price tag was justified as in three previous seasons, one in Brazil and two in Holland, Ronaldo had scored 108 goals in 110 matches. At Barcelona, he has continued to score

"Ronaldo is an exquisite footballer who lives to score goals. It doesn't matter how you mark Ronaldo, it's impossible to intimidate him. He's got great confidence in his own abilities and all the qualities to become a world-beater -Pele



an average of a goal per game which is quite remarkable_as Spanish defenders are noted for their tight marking and brutal tackling. Sensing his unique skills, Barcelona has extended his contract to 2006, doubled his annual salary to 2.5 million pounds and raised his transfer fee evaluation to a mind-boggling 47 million pounds. This is being done to discourage attempts by European rivals like A.C. Milan, Juventus and Inter Milan from buying him.

His lifestyle is also quite befitting his status. He lives in a house near the beach in the Barcelona suburb of Castelldefels, wears two studs in his left ear and has an expanding, entourage including financial advisers. He even has a long term contract with Nike. However creditably, he remains an unspoilt youngster without an attitude problem. His devotion to fitness enabled him overcome a troublesome thigh injury which put him out of action in November.

The road to fame was not always a

bed of roses. Born in Bento Riveiro, a modest Rio suburb, Ronaldo developed skills in a typical Brazilian fashion. He grew up playing football on the streets and sleeping with a ball at night. His parents separated when he was 13 and his mother Sonia, a former housewife, began selling pizzas to pay the bills. He could not afford the bus fare for a trial at the Flamengo ground. So he started his career with Sao Cristavo, a second division club where he was spotted and coached by Jairzinho. At the age of 16, he signed his first professional contract with a first division Cruizeiro in Belo Horizonte. He stayed there for only one season scoring 54 goals in 54 matches. However, the talent was obvious and PSV Eindhoven signed him for the 1994-95 season for about \$400,000.

Ronaldo now has the world at his feet. A balanced individual, he is still improving and has the skills and attitude to emerge as 'the best ever'. Time, as always, will provide the final answers.

A TAXING RELATIONSHIP

Despite his undoubted skills as a coach in Steffi Graf's formative period, PETER GRAF ultimately became an albatross around his daughter's neck

to jail on charges of tax evasion and mismanagement of funds, it was someone else's money, he was trying to manage. It was someone else's tax he was trying to evade. This was the most bizarre part of Peter Graf's imprisonment.

Well, of course, the person whose money he was managing (or mismanaging), whose tax burden he was trying to ease, was his daughter Steffi Graf in whose emergence as a tennis phenomenon, Peter Graf made a considerable contribution. But a father going to jail trying to save his wealthy daughter a few bucks is almost unheard of, isn't it?

Peter Graf's presence in her daughter's life has been constant, some times positive, mostly distressing. In her formative years, Peter Graf as father was indeed instrumental in ensuring that she received the right kind of coaching. He had Steffi practise tennis from the age of three. He devised simple rewards for good work; for example, for 50 consecutive good shots, he would reward her with an icecream. He nurtured her, realising that she had an incandescent talent and then guided her smoothly into the hard, tough, ruthless world of professional tennis.

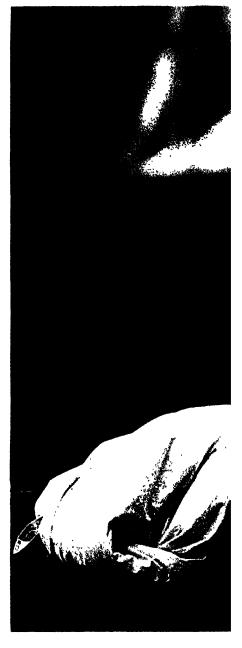
That Steffi Graf lived up to her father's expectations, dreams, is needless to mention. But the perfect happiness that was supposed to result from this exemplary father-daughter combination was often soured by



A young Steffi Graf with her father-cum-coach-cum-friend

Peter Graf's questionable activities and decisions.

He was a party animal. He had a well publicised affair with a nude model who later tried to blackmail him. It made headlines around the world and put his own marriage under stress. He was and is awed by celebrities. He loves to be photographed with famous politicians and jet-set figures. As the millions began pouring in, through the magic wand of his daughter's racquet, Peter Graf began to start drinking more; he was known to consume large amounts of cognac. Later, he became an alcoholic and was also addicted to tranquilisers; he ended up having a nervous breakdown. Such excessive amounts of money was all a bit too much for this former used-car salesman.



Perhaps it has also something to do with his own childhood. His mother committed suicide when he was a teenager. It was a searing moment in his life. It would seem that the psychological scar has never been healed.

But ultimately, it was greed that undid him. He wanted to keep all the millions (about \$61 million earned, so far, by Steffi) for the family. Hence, the complicated tax evading tactics, routing money through banks in Liechtenstein, etc. The German tax authorities, tough, shrewd, smart, finally nailed him.

At one point, the tax problems became serious enough to tell on Steffi's morale. A lady who has never been overwhelmed by the pressures of the professional circuit had to admit that her tennis was in decline, not so because of her form or for any other sporting reasons. The strain caused by

Peter Graf during happier times. Watching Steffi Graf from the Players' Box at Wimbledon Peter Graf's controversial activities proved unbearable.

It would have been naive to expect the media to stand back and watch. Steff Graf was then, just as she is now, the most sensational tennis talent on the women's circuit. And more. She was beautiful. She was single. And she was a winner. The life of such a dazzling personality being controlled by a man, her father, not a boyfriend or manager, with a dubious reputation, was too tempting a story for the media to ignore.

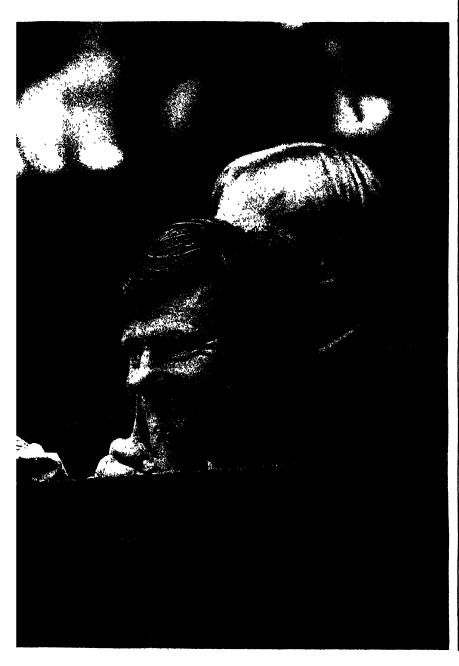
It certainly made things worse for Steffi. But Peter Graf hardly changed Neither did the arrangement that the father would continue to manage the financial matters of the daughter, whose weath, earned from tennis had become phenomenal. Why Steffi Graf let that arrangment to continue has not yet been known. She, of course, expressed her uneasiness about it, at times, but never took any decisive steps to remedy the problem.

There was, however, a long spell of peace and order in the lives of the Grafs' ever since previous financial allegations and irregularities passed off without actually bringing about the ruin of Steffi Graf, though her agony was obvious. Then Steffi Graf returned from her shadowlands to glory and reclaimed her niche in the world tennis pantheon.

This comeback was somewhat deceptive. It seemed to indicate that the worst was over. But it was not. It was only Steffi Graf's remarkable resilience and her triumph over the odds that gave us the impression that Steffi Graf's life and that of her father were back to normal.

That impression was wrong. The Peter Graf crisis in Steffi Graf's life was still continuing. Maybe, it will end now, with the father being put away behind bars for close to four years. Maybe, Steffi Graf will take the opportunity to gain control of her finances and manage it the way she plays her tennis: with integrity and sincerity.

Suprakash Ghoshal, London



A Day In The Life Of

BULA

CHOWDHURY

he former national swimming champion married to another former national swimming champion still has dreams and aspirations.....

It's 11.30 in the morning on a Thursday in January; Bula Chowdhury strides into the first floor reception at Tata Centre in Calcutta. She is wearing a maroon cotton saree and thick sandals. She has shoulder length hair; her sindoor mark comes quite a bit down her forchead. We sit on red sofas. Bula smiles easily; she looks very relaxed and calm. We start talking.

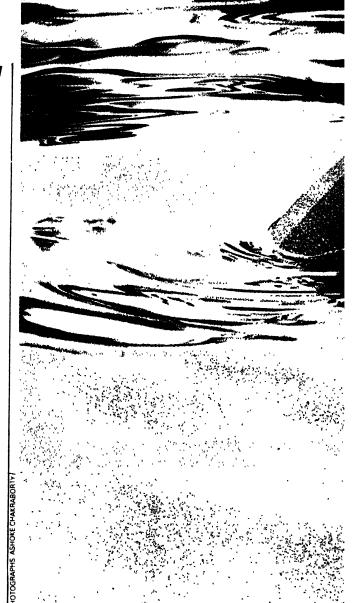
She's 27 years old. She's married to former

international swimmer Sanjib Chakraborty. They have a 2 1/2 year old son, Sarbajit. They live in Hind Motors, which is 20 minutes by train from Calcutta Bula works as a Sports Assistant in Tisco; she has been working here for the past eight years. Sanjib Chakraborty works as a senior welfare officer (Sports) in the Railways.

Here's a quick look at the

Watering marigold flowers in the garden just outside their house





careers of both Bula and Sanjib:

Bula: started her swimming career at the age of 8. From then till 1995, at the national level, she has won a total of 97 medals (84 golds). She has set 7 national records.

She has taken part in the Asian Games, the SAF Games, the Asian Age



Group Championships, the South Asian Championships, the Asian Pan Pacific meet, the Friendship Games, etc Tom 1982-92 in places like

Singapore, Hongkong, Seoul, Moscow, Kathmandu and Hiroshima. In her international career, she has won a total of 20

medals, (11 gold/4 silver/5 bronze.)

In 1989, she swam across the English Channel, from Dover to Calais, a distance of 39 kms in 10 hrs. 46 In the pool, taking a break from her strenuous training

minutes.

Sanjib: Took part in his

first national championships at the age of 21. In the course of the next ten years, he won a total of 54 medals. He also set 20 national records. He was the fastest swimmer in India from 1981-87. Was the Railways best swimmer Doing stretching exercises; husband Sanjib lends a helping hand

for 8 years consecutively from 1981.

Took part, from 1982-90, in the Commonwealth Games; the Asian Games; the Asian Swimming Championships; the SAF Games and the World Railways Championships. He won 11 gold medals. In the process, he set 13 national records.

Undoubtedly, they are an illustrious couple.
Between them, they have won a total of 189 medals and set 40 national records. This is a true mating of top-class talent....Bula first saw Sanjib in the Patiala camp in '82. At that time,

she was only 12 years old. When asked when the sparks flew between them, Bula blushes, laughs nervously and falls silent. After some prodding, she says, "Things began to happen after '86."

By then, Bula had grown a little more older. They met regularly when they



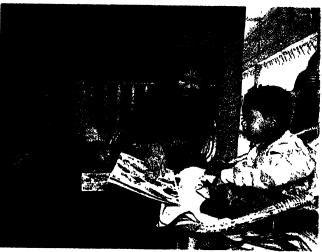
went for training to Calcutta. Sanjib stayed at Koilaghat, which is one and a half hours by train from Calcutta while Bula stayed at Hind Motor. They finally got married in '93. They decided to stay at Bula's house, since travelling to Calcutta was easier. Today, they have

She has no servant; hence, she does all the cooking and the housework

more or less completed their own house in Hind Motor. It's a nice, cosy-looking home for a family of three.

A typical day for Bula goes like this: she gets up at about six in the morning;





does an hour of free-hand exercises. Then she steps into the pool which is within the compound of her house. She swims for an hour or two. If she has to go to office, she steps out by eight, prepares breakfast, has a bath and leaves the house by 9 A.M.

Her job at Tata Centre requires that she report only twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10.30 to 12.30 P.M. After that, she returns home. Following lunch and a brief rest, she gets up at three o'clock and goes to a nearby table tennis club to do weight training.

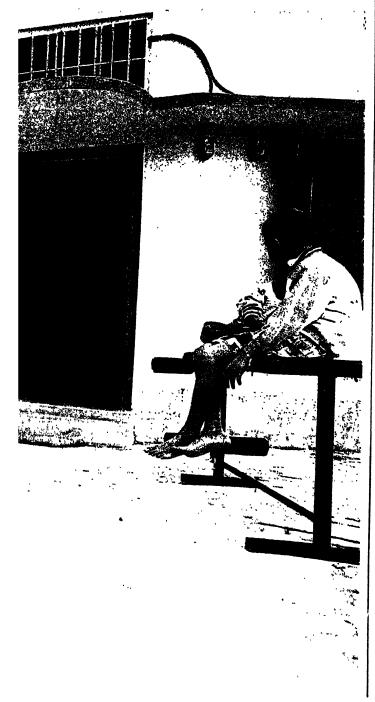
In summer, she goes straight to the pool and

Father and mother teaching their 2 1/2 year-old-son Sarbajit

swims. Since the water is not cold, she swims for hours together. When it becomes dark, lights which have been rigged up around the pool are switched on, so that she can continue swimming. She swims till 8 p.m.

"Why are you doing so much of training?" I ask.

"I have one big ambition left," she explains, "I want to cross the English Channel both ways: from Dover to Calais and from Calais to Dover. The latter is an extremely tough swim; one needs an enormous amount of



Bula standing outside the pool; this is within the compound of her father's house

training and endurance power."

But Bula has the usual problem that besets most people who want to achieve unusual goals: a lack of sponsorship.

"The last time I swam the Channel" she reminisces, "Tisco had sponsored it. But this time, when I made up the budget, it came to Rs.7-8 lakhs; this is double the amount that I required in '89. Prices have gone up. I have to spend for airfare for a three member team. I have to stay for two months in England for training. I have to hire boats. They are very expensive."

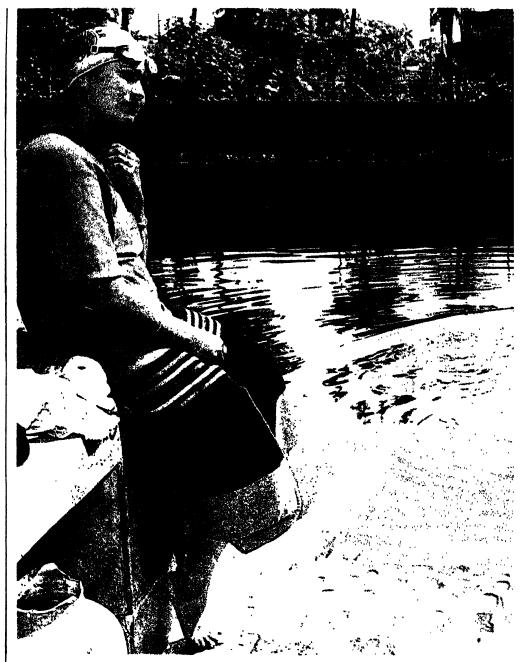
I ask the obvious question: "Did you approach Tisco?"

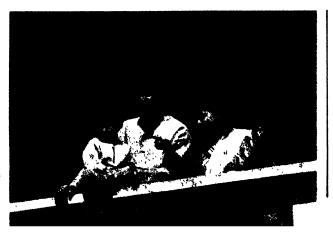
"I did," she replies, "but they said that the budget was too high. They don't mind spending such a big amount for a team event. But to sponsor an individual for so many lakhs is against their policy."

Her eyes look downcast. Her voice which was chirpy and happy sounded gloomy now.

"I need sponsors. But to get somebody is a full time job. You have to run from place to place. How then will I do my training? You need to train at least twelve hours a day to prepare for a Channel swim...everything is so

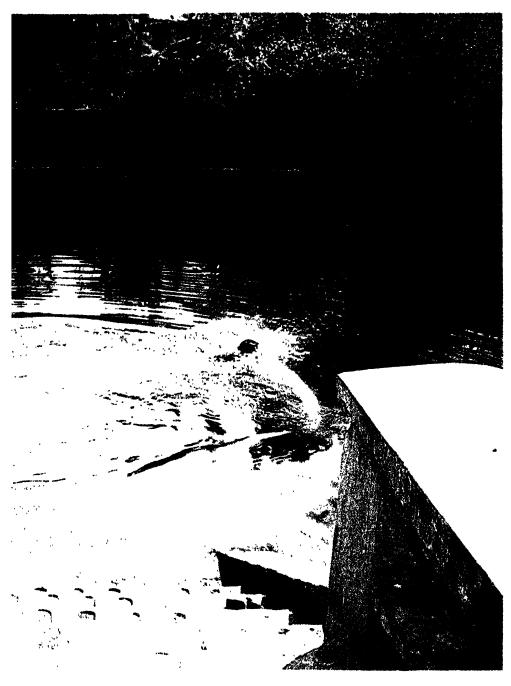
The threesome on the balcony of their newly-constructed house of Hind Motor; this is the place where the Ambassador and Contessa cars are manufactured 30





dark now."

She pauses and then rushes on, "I don't know what to do. Sometimes, I feel like stopping my training altogether. But I have such a deep desire to do this Channel swim. I am in a dilenma. At present, I can't have a normal life. I can't look after my child properly, because of my training. Yet, nothing is



happening regarding the sponsorship. So what's the point of training so hard? ...I need a guide desperately; somebody who can look after the matter of the sponsorship. But there is nobody. It is very sad."

She becomes silent. I don't know what to say. I stare at the light pink carpet. An uncomfortable

silence develops. So I change the topic. I ask her about her son: "Is Sarbajit interested in swimming?"

Her face lights up. She smiles and nods. (All mothers love to talk about their sons.)

"Yes, my son is interested in swimming. But we don't want him to take up swimming. There is too much of politics in our sport. Both Sanjib and I have suffered a lot from the very beginning of our careers. The type of officials we have...I just could not tolerate them. Whether they are from Bihar or U.P. or any other part of the country, they are the same, uncouth type of people. We don't mind Sarbajit becoming a sportsman but we don't want him to take



Sanjib and Bula at Hind Motor railway station. It takes 20 minutes or more to reach Calcutta



The whole family, including Bula's parents and her sisters are gathered around to spend a lazy winter afternoon together

up swimming."

The sad thing, Bula, is that all federations are staffed with the type of unruly hustlers that you have just described. Sarbajit is going to suffer the same problems that you had, whether he becomes a swimmer or an athlete or a team player.

Unless, of course, India changes the quality of its leadership. But will we, as a people—so passive, so fatalistic, so subservient to authority—have the energy to do that?

If we do, Sarbajit's and our children's sporting futures could be a little more brighter.....

Shevlin Sebastian

TENNIS INDEX

WHAT Gabriela Sabatini once did to escape the pressure and loneliness of fame: She bought a blond wig.

HO 1960s star Fred Stolle says "is one of the very few players today who knows a lot about the history of the game": Pete Sampras. NUMBER of tournaments scheduled in 1997 on the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance's international circuit: 20.

PERSON who admitted that "I've lusted after her (Martina Navratilova) for 13 years": Lesbian comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer.

NUMBER of tournaments scheduled in 1997 on the

WHAT rising star Mark Philippoussis says he would have been if he weren't playing tennis: A cartoonist.

WHAT 1930s tennis champion Alice Marble advised the cartoonists for Wonder Woman to do: Replace Wonder Woman's star-spangled tennis dress with shorts to reveal her muscular legs better.

THE only thing keeping
Michael Chang from being
No.1 in the world, according
to his brother-coach Carl: "A
too-low first serve
percentage."

WHAT Paraguayan linesmen did during the Davis Cup matches between Paraguay and the visiting United States in 1987: They openly cheered for the Paraguayan team.

Nations that are participating in the Davis Cup for the first time in 1997: Tajikistan, Madagascar and Uganda.

WHAT Stefan Edberg used to list as his favourite vacation destination; Home.

A MOUNT of assets that Bjorn Borg, who owes creditors \$1.6 million, testified in court that he has: 0.



WHAT Nelson Mandela made sure was built in the prison yard when he was imprisoned on Robben Island; A tennis court



ACKET that Thomas
Muster, who has an
endorsement deal with
Kneissl, used at the 1996
U.S.Open: His old Head Pro
Tour 280 Mid-Plus which was
disguised with the Kneissl
logo stamped on the throat.

That Pete Sampras has: Thalassemia minor, a mild form of anaemia.

WHAT Nick Bollettieri calls his tennis and sports academy in Bradenton, Florida which teaches 300 full-time juniors from 40 countries: "The world's toughest play ground."

How often hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky plays tennis during the off-season: Nearly every day.

A VERAGE speed of Mark Philippoussis's second serve in his 1996 Wimbledon match against Pete Sampras: 111 miles per hour.



Rson why Boris Becking Say, the wants to leave Germany, according to a Dutch newspaper: Because unknown people threaten to kidnap his son, and his wife in discriminated against becaus of the colour of her skin.

HO 15-year-old Boris Yeltsin, a talented left-hander and the grandson of the Russian President, reminds Martin Van Tol, tennis director at Millfield School in England, of: Henri Leconte.

RACKET ruled illegal for recreational players by the year 2000 by the International Tennis Federation: Dunlop's Max SUPERLONG+2.25, the company's fourth best-selling racket.

Compiled by Paul Fein



GOLD



WHEN IN A PINCH....HIT OUT!

In one day cricket these days, there are a new breed of batsmen, known as pinch-hitters, who come in at the fall of an early wicket. Their job is to accelerate the scoring dramatically

MONG the various meanings of the word 'pinch' found in various dictionaries of English, the one which is nearest to certain cricketers' new-found utility is 'if it comes to the pinch' which has been explained as "in a case of necessity or in an emergency". This is exactly the

situation in which a 'pinch-hitter' is expected to arrive at the crease and try to change the course of a cricket match.

But the term, which is actually American in origin, has been derived straight from the sport of baseball. And its explanation is absolutely straightforward too. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English

states that a pinch-hitter is a "baseball player who bats instead of another in an emergency." It also says that such a player is a "person acting as a substitute." This makes the term absolutely clear.

Pinch-hitting was given a good name some five years ago by New Zealander Mark Greatbatch. The burly Aucklander, given a license to cause cricket's version of grievous bodily harm, battered 68 off 60 balls against South Africa, 63 off 77 against the West Indies and 73 off 77 against India to set a World Cup trend.

The idea was relined at the '96 World Cup, however by the Indians and the Australians, but Sachin Tendulkar and Mark Waugh are not your average sloggers. Both are naturally aggressive and had orders to take the initiative during the first 15 overs, with only two fielders permitted in the deep. But their prime role is not to get flashy forties and fifties, but to build large innings'. A 'real' pinch-hitter has to be a different sort of a player.

Quite a few of them came to the fore in the year 1996, and some of them continued to excel on a regular basis too, but of course this term is valid

Romesh Kaluwitharana: gave pinch-hitting a new dimension. However, he is now a recognised opener



only in the case of the one-day version of the game. A pinch-hitter certainly has no place in a Test match. In the longer version of cricket, you need perhaps a nightwatchman to guard against an important wicket falling unnecessarily in the fading light of a near close-of-play period, but surely no one who is expected to boost the run-rate.

If such a situation does arise in a Test match, and there are wickets to spare in the final innings, this task is generally left to a pair of established batsmen. In the context of one-day cricket, the pinch-hitter is invariably a 'non-batsman', someone who could 'increase the length of the batting order without putting in jeopardy the depth of the team's batting resources

whether he succeeds or even fails miserably.'

The star of this newly-introduced phenomenon was Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper-batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana and then Pakistan's Shahid Afridi who burst on the scene to become virtually the 'king of the pinch-hitters'.

Kaluwitharana, the enthusiastic little Sri Lankan cricketer with strong wrists and powerful shoulders, was the first one to be thurst into the pinch-hitter's role. From the lower order, he was promoted to No.4 in a Sharjah Champions Trophy match against the West Indies in the October of 1995 and immediately obliged with a hard-hit 31.

A total of 662 runs were scored in

Jawagal Srinath has in recent times been sent up the batting order, but he found it difficult to face the new ball

the match, Sri Lanka replying to the opponents' total of 333-7 with their own massive 329, and in the end losing by a mere 4 runs.

Three months later, Kaluwitharana was sent in to open the batting with Sanath Jayasuriya for Sri Lanka in a World Series Cup match against Australia in Melbourne. This time he hammered 77 off 79 deliveries and his team finished with a three-wicket win and Kaluwitharana was declared Man-of-the-Match. Strangely, his highest score in 34 one-day internationals prior to this match was a mere 31.

The Sri Lankan wicketkeeper has continued to open his team's batting, mostly with the hard-hitting Jayasuriya, but the occasions where he has helped boost the run-rate have become fewer and stay far apart. In any case, in reality, Kaluwitharana is not a 'specialist' pinch-hitter anymore; he has become an established opening batsman in one-day internationals.

Some of his later batting exploits do continue to boggle the mind though. In the World Cup '96 league-round win against India in Delhi, he hit 26 off just 16 balls as Sri Lanka's first 50 was attained with only 28 balls faced. His 24 runs against Pakistan in the Singer Cup in Singapore were made in a matter of 10 balls. Jayasuriya, meanwhile, was getting himself launched into a 48-ball hundred which saw him hammer 134 off a mere 65 deliveries with as many as 11 sixes and 11 fours.

In a nine-wicket Singer World Series win against India in Colombo last August, Kaluwitharana hit 53 off 66 deliveries and the opening pair realised 129 runs in 22 overs. His 58 in the victory over Australia in the final of the tournament came off just 45 balls. He and Jayasuriya (27 off 20 balls with six fours) hit 42 off the first 28 deliveries.

The pinch-hitter has been found to have immense utility for any team in one-day cricket. This allows the captain to include an extra batsman or bowler in the eleven, depending upon the need, without losing a specialist in the line-up. The pinch-hitter is generally a frontline bowler too, or a useful all-rounder or a wicketkeeper, as in Kaluwitharana's case. In purely cricketing terms, as opposed to baseball, this particular player however is not just a 'substitute' or a person 'batting instead of another in emergency'. He has a very important role to fulfil.

South Africa's tall and powerful off-break bowler Pat Symcox is another one of the more well-known

Shivnarine Chanderpaul has often been called upon by his captain to accelerate the scoring and he has clicked at times 32 pinch-hitters. In early 1996, while playing against India in Sharjah, he was sent in at No.4 to boost the run-rate but returned to the pavilion without even opening his account. Six months earlier, he had shown his batting prowess by hitting a 42-ball 35, against Zimbabwe in Harare, but then he had come in at No.8.

Only two days after having been promoted in the batting order and

getting out for nought, Symcox hit 35 at No.3 exactly a run-a-ball with two sixes and three fours, when South Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the same Pepsi Cup contest. In the tournament final, Symcox came in with his team at 20-2. With Gary Kirsten (115 not out) he helped lift the score with a 95-run stand for the third wicket, and his own contribution was a career-best 61 off a mere 49



deliveries which included two sixes and live fours.

After having been sent as an opener, and getting 13 runs, for England against South Africa in Johannesburg, Phillip DeFreitas showed his utility as an upper-order batsman in the World Cup '96 quarter-final against Sri Lanka in Faisalabad when at No.5 he hit 67 runs off 64 balls. His fifty came off just

46 deliveries and overall he hit two sixes and five fours. England made 235-8 but Sri Lanka, who later went on to win the World Cup, scored 236-5. However, DeFreitas has been out of favour with his country's selectors since this outing.

Soveral other lower-order batsmen have played the pinch-hitter's role without being quite effective. England's Craig White, South African wicketkeeper Steve Palframan
—substituting for the injured Dave
Richardson in the 1996 World Cup
opened the batting on two occasions
when Hudson was not available, after
having done the same once in the
home series against England.
Richardson himself, Zimbabwean
Craig Evans—opening the batting but
managing just 1,2 and 0, West Indian
wicketkeeper Courtney Browne,
Australia's Shane Warne, and
Zimbabwe's leg-spinner Paul Strang
have been seen peforming
pinch-hitter duties quite frequently.

Even the left-handed West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who does bat high in the order, has had two of his best days as a sort of pinch-hitter. In the World Cup '96 semi-final against Australia, he opened the batting and scored 80. Less than two weeks later playing against New Zealand in Kingston, Chanderpaul made 61 off 75 balls and shared a 125-run first-wicket stand with Stuart Williams (62).

Indian fast bowler Javagal Srinath has batted higher up in the order on a number of occasions. Three times he got to play at the No.3 position. Once he clicked — against South Africa at Raikot in 1996, when he banged 53 runs with the help of a six and four fours. India (185 all out) still lost the match by five wickets. Srinath was again asked to do the pinch hitter's job in the Triangular Series in South Africa and was quite successful in his first outing where he blasted a fiery 37. However when he was asked to do the job against Zimbabwe in India's second match he managed only eight runs.

Pakistan's currently out-of-favour. wicketkeeper Rashid Latif batted at No. 3 in a Pepsi Sharjah Cup 1995-96 match against India, and responded with an exact 50 off just 31 balls. Pakistan, chasing a target of 306, however, fell at 277 and lost by a margin of 28 runs. Rashid's main rival for the 'keeper's job and the current incumbent, Moin Khan, came in at No.3 in the Birmingham one-dayer in the tour to England. He was dismissed for a duck to make Pakistan 6-2, and





Pat Symcox fine tunes his batting at nets. He is a surprise weapon used by the South African captain in emergencies

England went on to win by a massive 107 runs difference.

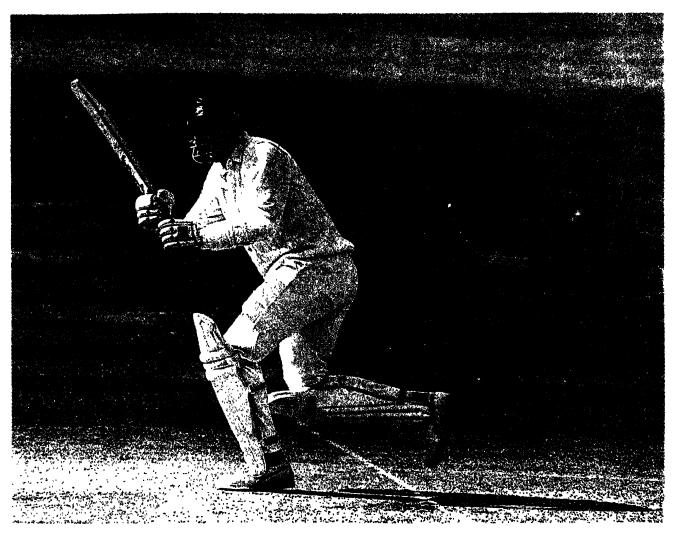
Shahid Afridi made cricket history on October 4, 1996. He came into the Pakistan team in an amazing, and almost unbelievable manner. He was touring the West Indies with the Pakistan Under-19 team as its vice-captain. And he was in the side on the basis of his leg-spinning abilities alone.

The Pakistan senior team was in Canada at that time, playing in a five-match series against India. Star leggie Mushtaq Ahmed needed to get a bad knee operated upon soon after the trip ended, but the Pakistanis were immediately moving on to Kenya for a four-nation tournament.

Shahid Afridi received as S.O.S in the Caribbean The 16-year-old, born in the Khyber Agency near Peshawar but settled in Karachi, had never played for Pakistan seniors before. Herushed back home, just in time to join the national side at the Karachi airport who were in transit for a few hours between trips from Canada and on to Nairobi.

Once in Kenya, Shahid made his one-day international debut in a match in which he was not needed to bat. In the next encounter against World Cup champions Sri Lanka, he was seen coming in at the dismissal of the first player. Apparently, the day before in the nets he had impressed all and sundry with his clean-hitting, and it had been decided to send him high up in the order. This was also the first time he was going to bat for Pakistan in any important international match. In a matter of a mere 37 deliveries. Afridi had hammered a hundred against Sri Lanka to create a new world record. This score included a record-equalling 11 sixes plus six fours. His fifty came off from only 18 balls.

Just to show that he is human after all, Shahid Afridi was dismissed first ball in the third one-day international against Zimbabwe, playing in his home town of



Peshawar. But to make up for it Afridi put in some memorable and highly praisable innings' in the one dayers during Pakistan's trip to Australia recently for the World Series

Since the rubber against Zimbabwe, Alridi's best elfort have been an 18-ball 20 at No 3 against New Zealand in Sharjah and another 21 against the same opponents in the Champions Trophy final at the same venue. However, if his batting ability has faded slightly, Afridi has continued to be chosen for Pakistan limited-over squads-in addition to Mushtaq Ahmed-because he is extremely useful as an outfielder, is a very fast catcher and an extremely useful quickish leg-break bowler. His being a pinch-hitter has helped Pakistan to play around with the roles of other specialists, both in the batting order and among the bowling

Phil Defraitas was in good form as a pinch-hitter in the '96 World Cup, but has fallen from favour since then

strength available.

South African left-handed, all-rounder Lance Klusener also played a useful pinch-hitter's role in a Titan Cup match against Australia in Guwahati. Coming in at No 3, while his team needed 239 run to win, Klusener hit an unbeaten 88 off 99 balls to finalise an eight-wicket win. Still it was off-spinner Symcox—who shared the new-ball attack and had figures of 10-0-32-1, who was thought worthy of being handed over the Man-of-The-Match award.

West Indian wicketkeeper Junior Murray is another pinch hitter worth mentioning. He equalled his previous one-day highest of 86 in a match against Pakistan in the World Series Cup at Adelaide in December. Sent in to open the batting, for the first time in his career at this level, Murray faced only 79 balls in 118 minutes and hit 14 boundaries. The 177-run victory proved just a piece of cake for the Caribbean side. However, Pakistan had the last laugh over the West Indians and the Australians as they went on to win the World Series.

The question that can be asked now is: are the pinch-hitters here to stay? Of course, they are. They have an important role to play, and depending upon the peculiar needs of their various teams, they will continue to be depended upon in the hours of need. Whether they will go on to be consistently successful is, however, a different query altogether

Gul Hameed Bhatti
COURTESY THE PAKISTAN CRICKETER

FADING LIGHT

OHSIN BHAI received the ball from near the centre line and then he started on the long run towards the goal. He swerved past one defender, then another, put in a solid burst of speed and within seconds, he was near the top of the penalty box.

Again, he was challenged by a defender but with a deft swerve, he went past him and now there was only the goalkeeper to beat. Mohsin Bhai was calm. He kicked with his right foot, but over the ball; the goalkeeper dived to the right. It was a feint! He brought his right leg back

ILLUSTRATIONS ARTHUR CARDOZO



Mohsin Bhai was the star footballer of the Bright Star Football Club. But then he fell into bad company and started drinking. His football skills deteriorated and his life became a mess....a short story for children and adults

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

and calmly slammed the ball into the left-side corner of the net.

GOAL!

The spectators cheered loudly. Once again Mohsin Bhai helped his team, 'Bright Star', win the football league championships on the Park Circus Maidan in Calcutta. I was ten years old at that time. After the game, I went up to Mohsin Bhai who was sitting on the grass and taking off his black football boots. He was a thin man with curly black hair and round eyes.

I said, "Mohsin Bhai, that was a great goal." He looked up at me, saw that I was a small boy and pinched my cheeks. He smiled and said, "And you are a very sweet boy. Do you want to be a footballer?"

"I want to," I replied, "but I just don't have the knack."

"If you practise hard and regularly, you can be a good footballer," he replied.

I didn't say anything to that. By then, other people had come to congratulate Mohsin Bhai on his brilliant goal. I walked away. It was getting dark; although I lived near the Maidan, I knew that if I was late, my mother would be worried. Anyway, I never took to playing football seriously. My family was a strict one; they preferred that I concentrated on my studies and did well.

"You will starve," I remembered



my sister telling me one evening, when I said that I wanted to be a footballer, "there's no money in it. You can't have a decent life." At that time, when I was growing up, there was no money in sport. It's only nowadays that there is so much money, that, at nineteen, Sachin Tendulkar can be a lakhpati. I got scared and decided that I would be a doctor instead.

It took me eight years but finally I passed out as a doctor from Calcutta Medical College. Unlike my fellow students, who wanted to serve the rich people and make pots of money, I

opened a clinic in a slum in Park Circus. No doctor had ever ventured there before. Slowly, patients began to trickle into the clinic because my fees were low; I was earning a reputation for being a good doctor.

Five years after I started the clinic, a fat man shuffled in. He was perspiring a great deal. It was May, the hottest month of the year. He had a big paunch and he walked slowly. His face was unshaven; his eyes were red. I stared hard at the man. There was something familiar about him. Then suddenly the memory fell into place: Mohsin Bhai. It was unmistakable:

the soft, curly black hair, the round black gentle eyes, and the sweet shy smile.

"Mohsin Bhai," I exclaimed, "what on earth has happened to you?"

He looked surprised that I knew his name. There was a puzzled look in his eyes and so I said, "You might not know me but I watched you play for the 'Bright Star' Club many years ago. You were such a brilliant player. I stay in Darga Road, near the Maidan and I have seen you play many matches."

"Oh, I see," he replied, "that was a long time ago. That was the best time



of my life. I never enjoyed myself so much. But now, there is no longer any football league on the Maidan. Bright Star is no longer the club it once was."

"Mohsin Bhai, what has happened to you?" I asked curiously.

"What can I tell you, my son. My only skill was in football. I studied up to Class four only. I earned good money when I played for 'Bright Star' but I spent money lavishly in those days. I did not have much ambition in me. Otherwise, I could have easily played for East Bengal or Mohun Bagan. But once the league stopped, I didn't know what to do. I had no skills and no job. I tried to coach for a while but the younger generation is more interested in watching TV. There is no money in coaching.

"I was married by then. I had a wife and a daughter. My wife nagged me because there was so little money in the house. I used to feel depressed. I tried for a few jobs but where can you get a job without qualifications? After all, even degree holders can't get jobs, so what could I expect? I fell into bad company and took to drinking. I have become an alcoholic. Can't you see that now?"

I felt an enormous sadness within me to see Mohsin Bhai like this. Once upon a time, he had brought so much of pleasure to people by his great footballing talent. Now that talent lay in ruins. Life was so unpredictable. I thought to myself that if even talented people like Mohsin Bhai could end up like this, what about untalented people like me? But in India, it seems that only the untalented and the mediocre survive. The good ones are drowned in the sea of mediocrity all around them.

I began to examine Mohsin Bhai. He was in bad physical shape. His liver, because of excessive drinking, had been badly damaged. He was bloated and weak. I felt a deep compassion for him. I took his hand in mine and said, "Mohsin Bhai, you are in very bad shape. If you continue to drink, you might die. Your liver is very badly damaged. You have to get away from the friends that you keep. Life is precious, so don't ruin it. You were

my idol in my childhood; now it is my turn to help you. I offer you a job as a helper in my clinic. You must greet visitors and sit them down. I will give you six hundred rupees a month. I know it will be difficult for me but I want to help you."

Mohsin Bhai looked at me amazed, his eyes wide open. For some time, he was speechless. Then he took my hand and kissed it. "Young brother," he said, "I thank you very much. You may have saved my life. I will serve you well."

Mohsin Bhai started working in the clinic. And very quickly, he regained his self-respect and fought to stay away from the liquor bottle. He broke off from his old friends and spend most of his time in the clinic. In the beginning, he found it difficult to stay without liquor. So every now and then, he would get drunk. But gradually, that began to lessen. He was popular with the patients who came to the clinic. They all knew who he was; there was something about Mohsin Bhai, his ever-ready smile and those wide round eyes, that made them confide their personal troubles to him. He would listen patiently and then would offer some sound advice. Since he had suffered so much in his life, he had a deep empathy for other people and their problems.

So much for Mohsin Bhai. As for me, I had just married when Mohsin Bhai came into my life. I had gone to the National Library to do some research work on bone cancer. There I met Keya.

Like me, Keya is a Bengali. And she is pretty; she has waist-length lustrous black hair, red lips, a long, sharp nose and a dazzling smile. When I first saw her, my heart did a somersault. Soon, sparks began to fly; we fell in love. Six months after I met her, I married her in a simple ceremony at the Kalighat temple. Keya finished her Masters in English and went on to become a teacher in a local school.

Two years after our marriage, my son was born. Mohsin Bhai was with me at the hospital, while my wife was in labour, trying to soothe me because I was so anxious and nervous.

Thankfully, Keya had a smooth delivery; the child was bonny and healthy. We named him Amit.

Amit, my son, had extraordinary energy from the very beginning. I could never believe that children could have so much of energy, till Amit was born. By the time he learnt how to walk, he was almost uncontrollable. Running here, running there, always curious. Throwing things to the floor. Pulling the counterpane from the bed. Pushing the flower vase to the floor. Turning on the television set and then switching it off immediately. And then turning it on again. On and on he would be active from dawn to dusk.

"Mohsin Bhai," I said, "my son has too much of energy. We just can't control him. He is only three years old and he is already tiring us out." I meant it as a joke but Mohsin Bhai took it seriously. In the evening, he came with a football. He asked my permission, then went to the house, and took Amit to the park, to play football. It was the first time after many years that Mohsin Bhai was playing football. He was in his mid-fifties now, and in fine health.

He started playing with Amit; right from the beginning, my son was fascinated by the game. Perhaps Mohsin Bhai's infectious enthusiasm passed on to him or maybe, he just had a natural talent for it. Soon, football was the only thing on Amit's mind. When Mohsin Bhai saw that this son of mine had an aptitude for the game, he began to push him on. Under such expert guidance, Amit could only develop at a swift pace....

Today, my son is playing for Junior Bengal in the Nationals as a star centre forward. The coaches say that he has a bright future! Hopefully, he will be able to play for India some day. So my dream of becoming a footballer is being fulfilled by my son.

How strange and mysterious life is. But the one lesson that I have learned from this experience is this: If you help somebody, some day, someone will help you in return.

This is an extract from "A Race To Win and other stories", published by HarperCollins Publishers Pvt Ltd Price Rs 30

of talent from Spain, led by Carlos Moya, is pouring into the world of international tennis

IKE the conquistadors of old, a growing number of Spanish tennis players are travelling the world in search of their fortune. The Armada is taking the tennis world by storm just like the Swedes did in the last decade. But while the Swedish stream has slowed to a trickle, Spain, and Barcelona in particular, now has a gush of talent pouring into the world of tennis.

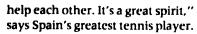
Sweden is presently suffering from a lack of interest in tennis and that has come about because Sweden isn't doing all that well in the game any longer. Thomas Enqvist is the only Swede in the top ten; since former world number one Stelan Edberg's retirement last year, Enqvist has had little support from his countrymen.

Spain, for their part, have 14 players in the top 100 on the ATP list, more than any other nation including the one discovered by Spaniard, Christopher Columbus. Seven of these are in the top 40. There were 15 Spanish players in the main draw of the men's tournament in the Australian Open this year.

Manual Santana, who travels with the Armada and was present in Melbourne, emphasises that this is the golden era of Spanish tennis. "It's like those glory days of Australian tennis in the 1950's and 60's when the greats of that era—Hoad, Laver, Emerson, Newcombe—dominated men's tennis. It's good for Spanish tennis that these boys travel together and

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was responsible for taking Spanish tennis to hitherto unclaimed heights





That spirit is evident whenever two amigos clash in a tennis match anywhere in the world—and that is happening rather often these days with so many of them around. Like, for instance, in the quarter finals of the Australian Open when a man they now call King Carlos was battling his amigo while in the bars of Barcelona they packed around their TV sets. Ultimately Carlos Moya maintained his charge through the Open when he beat another resident of Barcelona Felix Mantilla in four sets.

Yet later, Moya was filled with mixed emotions. The euphoria of a best-ever career grand slam result was

promised to forget their friendship once they walked onto centre court. But when Mantilla got Moya hopelessly out of position and won the point with a cheeky drop shot, he held his racquet up to his friend as if to say "sorry".

Despite all the hullabaloo about the centre court roof, Moya probably would have won even if the match had been played in the middle of Flinders Street. But it didn't stop him from chiding the media for ignoring his friend and world number 18.

But Mantilla, 22, doesn't have shoulder length hair or wear a bandana; he isn't on first name terms with members of the Barcelona socceteam and doesn't list his favourite

SPANISH ARMADA

tinged with regret that his friend and practice partner had been on the other side of the net. That's the way it has to be in sport especially tennis, where players of one country tour the world together, share the same hotels and often share their leisure time.

The Aussies Santana talked about had the same camaraderie. At a private party the other night, Neale Fraser showed a few friends an old film of his Wimbledon final win over Laver in 1960. Between changes of ends the two Aussies poured drinks for one another.

Sport was different in those days. Moya and Mantilla would have done the same on that day but now players have a break at each change of end and the ballboys have their drinks ready. The two Spaniards had music as 'U2,' 'Bon Jovi' and 'Queen'. Apart from all that, he didn't beat Boris Becker in the first round and Michael Chang in the semi finals of the tournament either.

Moya, twenty, couldn't make it past the second round of the four grand slams he contested last year—his second year on the tour—but managed to collect \$478,879 in prize money in smaller tournaments. He arrived in Australia with a world ranking of twenty eight but still a virtual unknown with no great illusions.

In the end, it turned out to be an outstanding trip to Australia for him. Before the Australian Open, he had reached the final of the Sydney International and he left the country ranked ninth in the world. Little



wonder he was bewildered, yet grateful, for the star status and media attention that had caused him to have hotel staff to vet all the calls to his room

We can only hope that Moya doesn't cruise into mediocrity-if we can use such a word—as so many of the other Spanish players have done. For if you look at the list that makes up the present-day Armada, most of them have lit the tennis horizon for a brief while only to take their place in

ht not reign in Spain, or in women's

the huge galaxy that is world tennis. Sergei Bruguera, winner of two

French Open titles who was once ranked No.3 in the world, but who is now struggling to get seeded in grand slam tournaments. Carlos Costa, Alberto Costa and Alberto Berasategui, who honed their skills on Andy O'Brien, Australia

the slow red courts of Spain and in turn took the European clay court seasons by storm with their baseline games and forehands that blaze the slow surface, and backhands that loop over the net with plenty of clearance are not doing so well as expected.

There are others like Thomas Carbonell, and Alex Carretja who are working their way to get there. And there are still others who are today's journeymen but who could, like Moya, suddenly burst upon the world stage: Galo Blanco, Jordi Burillo, Marcos Aurelio Gorriz, Juan Albert Viloca, and Roberto Carretero. Remember these names in case they become, in the near future, household names.

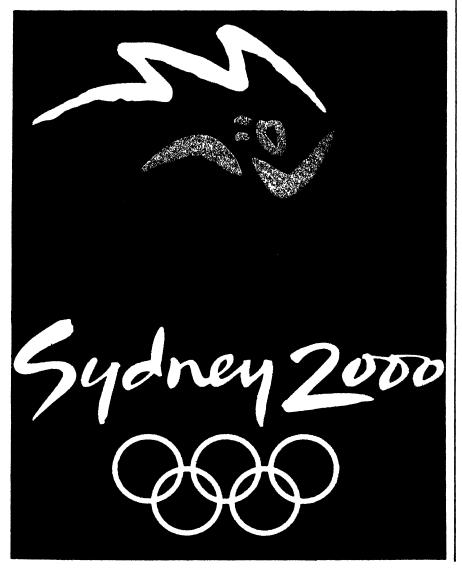
Of course, who can forget Conchita Martinez and the Sanchez family; Carlos, Javier and Arantxa, who were at one time known as the first family of world tennis. The Sanchez brothers may be on their way out, but there is no doubt that the family from Barcelona had a great deal to do with popularising the game in the country. At least Carlos Moya thinks so.

Moya, who now leads the renaissance in the Spanish men's ranks, warns that the world can expect the Spanish players to become more adaptable to hard court surfaces The Spanish Tennis Federation recently built a hard court complex in Barcelona where most of the nation's players train.

So expect the Spanish invasion to continue. And though it will be a long way to go to equal the feats of the great Santana, whose grand slam victories included two French Opens, one Wimbledon and one US Open, the Spanish Armada are preparing for a takeover of world tennis...

Boris Becker's comment on whether he will be playing Davis Cup against Spain after his first round loss to Moya in Melbourne probably sums up the tennis world's perception of the Spanish invasion. Becker laughed and said, 'Are you kidding? They have ten more Moyas waiting for me there."

THE 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES SYMBOL



What does it mean?

HE new logo represents the promise made in Sydney's bid to host a Games that would be dedicated to the athletes of the world. The figure of an athlete, formed by instantly recognisable Australian shapes and colours, captures the essence of Sydney's aspirations for the Games. The boomerangs and the suggestion of sun and rocks, together with the colours of the Harbour, beaches and red interior, evoke the unique Australian landscape and its original inhabitants. Trevor Flett from FHA Image Design Australia said, "The boomerang was a real inspiration for us. It deals with speed and comes from an ancient land. It gives the athlete further depth."

The symbolism is also close to the present. The old Sydney bid logo is invoked in the white flash that turns the outline of the Sydney Opera House into a wavy line of smoke from an Olympic torch. The designer of the Sydney Bid Logo. Michael Bryce, says he sees this new design as emphasising the whole country and being an integral part of the 2000 Games.

This is the start of an Olympic journey for Sydney and Australia that will culminate on 16 September 2000, when the athletes of the world gather at Sydney's Olympic Park to compete in 16 days of elite competition. It is Sydney's pledge that athletes will have the best possible venues, the fairest competition and the friendliest of environments to allow them to perform at their peak.

The Sydney Olympic Games coincide with the ending of one Millennium and the start of the next. So it is fitting that the 2000 Games should also adopt a symbol that is fresh and new and which reflects Australian contemporary design.

Past Olympic logos have captured the spirit of the host city. Sydney hopes that the Millennium athlete will proudly take its place in Olympic history and reflect Australia's promise to make the Games of the XXVII Olympiad the Athletes' Games.

COURTESY THE OLYMPIC REVIEW

READERS'

QUESTIONS

- Who are the participants in the Stoke Mandeville Games?
- On which cricket ground was the first Test match and the first one-day international played?
- In ancient Greece,
 Olympic athletes
 would be fed on a
 particular food in the belief
 that it was a divinely
 sustaining gift from
 Antaeus, the son of
 Poseidon. What was the
 food offered?
- If the Nawab of
 Pataudi (Jr.) was the youngest cricket captain, then who was the oldest to have captained a cricket team?

Answer to Question No.6





Answer to Question No.7

- Clive Lloyd was a legendary captain who steered his side to many memorable victories. But there is one country whom he could not defeat. Which is this nation?
- An Indian bowler's analysis in a 1975 World Cup match remains the best ever in terms of economy. Who was he?
- In which team game do we have periods of play called chukkers?
- Which heavyweight boxing champion had the middle name Marcellus originally?
- Which boxing legend was stripped of his heavyweight boxing championship title because he refused to enrol in the U.S. Army?
- What is the British Empire Games now known as?
- How did the word hattrick originate?

ANSWERS

- 1. Paralysed athletes take part in these Games and is the equivalent of the Olympics.
- 2. Melbourne Cricket Club. (1877 and 1971).
- 3. Cheese.
- 4. W.G.Grace was the oldest cricket captain. He was 50 years and 320 days when he led his side against Australia.
- **5.** Clive Lloyd never had a victory against New Zealand.
- **6.** Bishen Singh Bedi against East Africa at Leeds. His tally read: 12-8-6-1.
- 7. Polo.
- 8. Cassius Clay.
- 9. Muhammad Ali.
- 10. The Commonwealth Games.
- 11. In the olden days when cricketers wore top hats, a white top hat was awarded to any player who took three wickets in consecutive deliveries.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



RUCHIRA GULATI, C-19, AMAR COLONY, LAJPAT NAGAR-IV, NEW DELHI PIN—110048

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.

TURF BATTLE!

The McDowell Indian Derby, held in Mumbai recently, was one of the prominent events of the Indian horse racing season



(Top)

'Indictment', ridden by jockey Malesh Narredu won a very tight race. The winner took home a fabulous prize money of Rz.20,27952 along with a trophy valued at Rs.40,000

(Middle)

A delightful cocktail of Bollywood stars, business tycoons and socialites added glamour to this event



McDowell Chairman Vijay
Mallya (5th from left) along with
Mr.Vijaypet Singhania, Chairman
of RWITC (4th from left) and
K.N.Dhunjibhov, the owner of
'Indictment' (3rd from left), on the
prize-giving dies. On Mallya's left
is Mrs. Mallys



THE LEGACY OF A TITAN BY NOVY KAPADIA

PARGAT SINGH is now considered to be one of the great detenders in the history of Indian hockey

HEN future generations debate about the great Indian defenders of the 20th century, the name of Pargat Singh will always figure prominently in their discussions. In his heyday, Pargat was a sinewy defender renowned for his commanding presence on the field, defensive skills, delectable stickwork and burgeoning confidence. His anticipation, tackling, recovery and above all dribbling skills made him a hockey legend in the last two decades of the twentieth century.

Praise by our contemporaries and peer group is always considered the

ultimate accolade. In that respect Pargat is quite peerless. Several former internationals feel that Pargat was a cut above full-backs of his era like Vineet Kumar, M.P. Singh. Jagdev Singh, Poonacha, Harender Singh, Rajnish Mishra, Ashok Kumar, Mohammed Arif, Anil Aldrin and Dilip Tirkey. Appreciation of Pargat's abilities and his contribution to Indian hockey is unanimous.

Former international right-winger, member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medal-winning squad and recent national women's coach, Maharaj Kishen Kaushik in assessing Pargat's abilities said that, "Pargat was a class apart from other Indian defenders of his time. He was a very sincere and dedicated player who maintained his physical fitness and strength by constant practice. Once when I visited Jalandhar, I saw Pargat practising on his own. It is such dedication and zest for the game that made Pargat a great player.'

Asked to comment on Pargat's strengths, Kaushik said, "Without a doubt, the timing of his tackles. especially on his left side and confidence with the ball. He was inexplicibly superb. I would rate Pargat and Michael Kindo as the best tacklers ever in Indian hockey '

Brilliant inside forward, member of the 1975 World Cup winning team squad and son of the legendary Dhyan Chand, the skilful Ashok Kumar, felt that his former Indian Airlines teammate, the late Surjit Singh, Kindo and Pargat Singh were the best tacklers ever in Indian hockey. He said that there were many similarities between the slim and wiry Kindo and Pargat Singh. Both based their game on anticipation and timing of the tackles. Ashok praised Pargat for the timing and strength of his tackles. He said that in the timing of his tackles he was as good as Kindo.

According to Kaushik, Pargat would delay in releasing the ball, due to his skills in dodging. However, Kaushik rejected the traditional, hackneyed arguments that Pargat's upfield sorties, in any way diminished his ability as a defender.

The balding former right-winger

52

Vijay Amrithraj greeting Pargat Singh during the Kuber Champions Trophy

Kaushik, who now works as a Director of Sports with the Haryana Government, felt that Pargat's counter-attacking abilities added a new dimension to his game. He maintained that, "it was the duty of a right-half to provide defensive cover whenever Pargat moved upfield. In international hockey, a right half-back should understand such responsibilities and develop an understanding with his teammates. Kaushik felt that Harpreet Singh as right-half did provide adequate cover to Pargat Singh when the latter overlapped. However, he thought that earlier right-halfs like Subramani did not fully understand the versatility of Pargat's all-round game.

As an attacking full-back, Pargat was the nonpareil. It is often said that Pargat started the trend of attacking full-backs in Indian hockey. However, as several former internationals reiterated, it was Surjit Singh who first set the trend of dribbling upfield to launch attacks. Pargat, who literally admired late Surjit's approach to the game, followed the same style of play. Both Kaushik and Ashok Kumar feel that Pargat was the more skilful attacker. Kaushik also stresses that in recovery, Pargat was quicker than the Surjit Singh.

Comparisons between Pargat and Surjit are unfair as both played in a different era. Surjit played most of his hockey on grass whereas Pargat's career was spawned on artificial surfaces. Both players had a majestic presence, remarkable strength, hated to lose and fought to the last. Both believed in attacking hockey. Besides these qualities, there are several other uncanny parallels between Surjit and Pargat. Both were frank, fortright men who never hesitated to call a spade a spade.

Pargat was embroiled in controversies on several occasions. He had a tiff with the authorities over the captaincy issue and walked out of the national camp in 1988-89 and subsequently skipped the 1989 Indira





Gandhi tournament at Lucknow. In 1990, he formed the Players Union to protect the interests of hockey players. Even in his last stint as skipper at the Chennai Champions Trophy, Pargat argued for regular match fees for his players.

It may be recalled that Surjit Singh had walked off in a huft from the 1978 World Cup training camp because he had been rebuffed by Maj. Gen.
D'Souza and some other All India Council of Sports (AICS) officials. So both Pargat and Surjit had a rebellious streak. However by temperament Surjit was more phlegmatic whereas Pargat, in his early career was quite

Pargat Singh announces his retirement in front of a horde of TV and print journalists

temperamental, often quering umpiring decisions. He mellowed with age and did not lose his cool on the field but always championed the players' cause.

During his playing days, Surjit was the most respected and feared Indian player. Former Pakistan skipper and dashing right-winger Islahuddin always said, "We feared Surjit for his kills, strength and mental toughness. He was a tough opponent." Similarly in the modern era, classy inside-forward Shahbaz Ahmed of Pakistan says that Pargat Singh is India's best player and the toughest defender he has ever faced. Renowned Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans has always maintained that Pargat was India's best player for the last decade.

In one respect, Surjit was far superior to Pargat in conversion of penalty corners. In 313 international matches, Pargat scored 97 goals often with deft placements but somehow never enjoyed an awesome reputation as a penalty corner expert. There was never that hush of expectancy when Pargat went to strike penalty corners. In fact, even among his contemporaries it was felt that the burly Indian Airlines and



international defender M.P. Singh was the best of all. The late Prithipal and Surjit Singh and Rajender Singh, who now coaches schoolboys in Delhi, are generally considered India's best-ever penalty corner exponents.

After prolonged contemplation, Kaushik said, "I think that with his wristy, diagonal drives and accuracy Rajender Singh, the top-scorer in the 1981-82 World Cup, was the best penalty corner expert I have seen for India. Knee trouble deprived India of a classy player."

Pargat himself admits that lack of power prevented him from emerging as world class in executing penalty corners. He said, "Floris Bovelander's

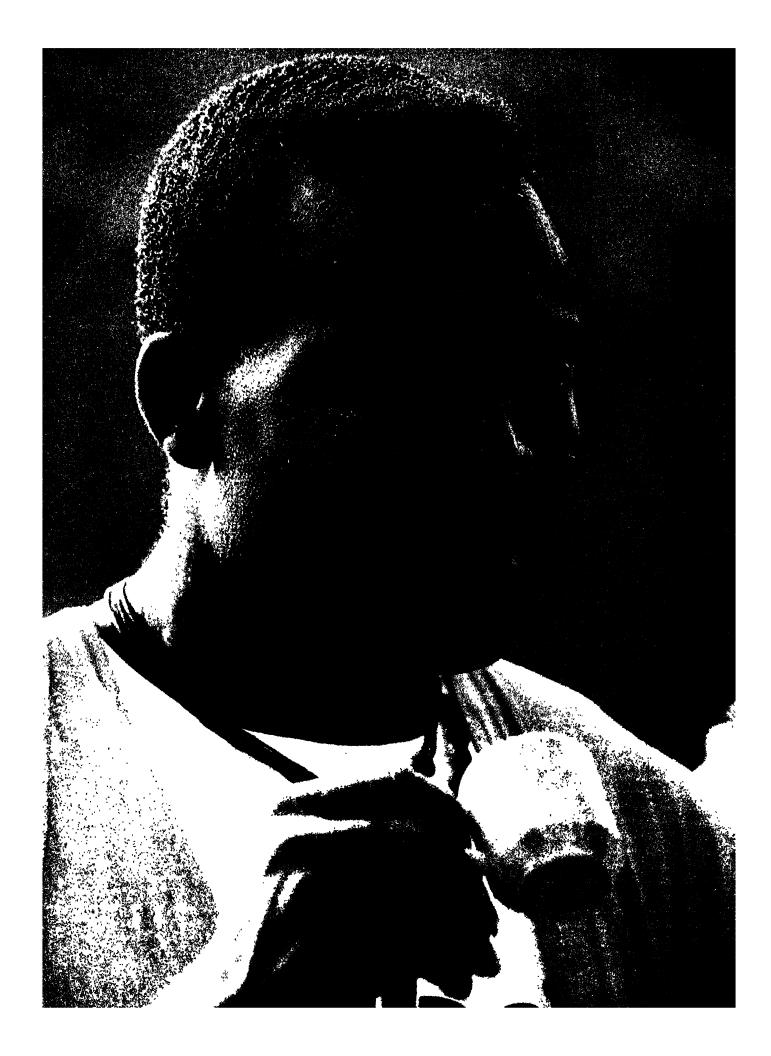
With Indian hockey coach Bhaskeran hits were measured at 220 mph whereas my strikes were measured at about 160 mph." In fact, Pargat greatly admired the overall game of

the genial Dutch penalty corner expert Bovelander.

So where can Pargat be placed in the Pantheon of great Indian defenders. He was without doubt, India's best defender in the last two decades. He can rank with R.S. Gentle, Prithipal Singh, Surjit Singh and Michael Kindo as India's best-ever defender. The only sad aspect of his outstanding career is that unlike the other greats, Pargat was singularly unlucky not to have figured as a medallist in a major

tournament although he played in three Olympics and two World Cups.

The highlights of his career were leading Asia to triumph in the Five-Continent Classic at Kuala Lumpur in 1990 and captaining the victorious Indian squads in the 1991 and 1995 Azlan Shah tournaments. Pargat himself says that "not winning an Olympic medal is the greatest regret of my career." But despite that he is still rated so highly is an ample tribute to the natural talent and hockey skills of this Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of Indian hockey, fearless fighter on the field, a rebel against the establishment but in off-field behaviour an impeccable gentleman.



THE SECOND COMING

The once arrogant CHIMA OKERIE is a changed player. His stint in Europe has transformed his football for the better

DHIMAN SARKAR

E was the Black Superman of Calcutta football, jolting teams with his explosive power. In fact, for eight vears, the sight of Chima Okerie parking himself in the penalty-area and then bulldozing past hapless defenders before bulging the netting was a familiar one for Maidan regulars. Familiarity fuels expectations so, on the rare day he failed, the invectives almost always reached a higher din.

It was only after he left, almost four years ago, did we realise that what seemed so natural for the burly Nigerian was not, after all, the easiest thing in football. Not that we didn't have goalscorers—Baichung Bhutia, I.M. Vijayan and more recently Raman Vijayan shouldn't take umbrage—but the galleries missed his robust brand of football. More importantly, they missed a 'star', especially since the exodus over the past two years.

There were two reasons behind Chima's leaving for Europe. "I really saw no point in being a lord here anymore," he told Sportsworld

Chima inaugurates the Goodricke Chess Tournament which was held in Calcutta recently. Moreover, his trade in India meant he wasn't really being noticed. "I would rather be a servant there (in Europe) than rule here;" he added.

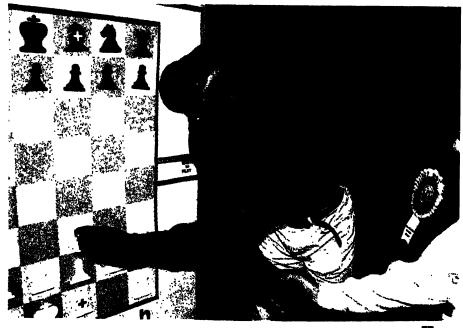
And now the 'Black Cheetah' is back, ostensibly on holiday—leaner than when we last saw him, his arrogance tempered and his football looking to be in a different league.

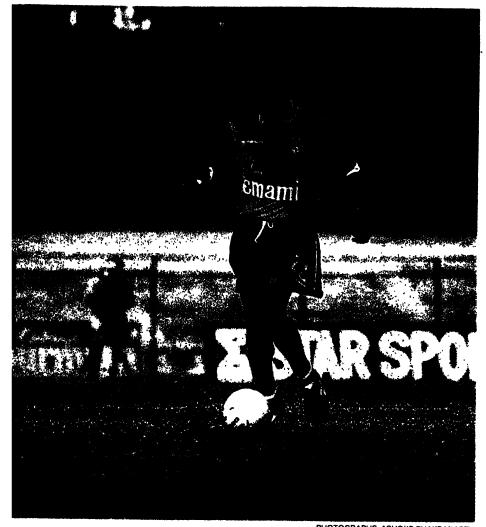
Gone is the overt stress on body power. Gone even is the tendency to restrict his activities to just the attacking third. Gone also was the protracted lapses in concentration that sometimes made Chima a bogeyman.

These days he operates more from the midfield, preferring to play in the vacuum behind the strikers. Often, he retrieves balls from deep in his own zone. And most importantly, tries playing one-touch football. In short, the Chima Okerie of today is a much-improved footballer. And much more lethal.

He showed glimpses of 'black magic' immediately on his return to Indian football, setting up two goals and sending one scudding into the crosspiece. This was in East Bengal's second Philips National League final-phase tie against Salgaocar. In the next match, versus Air-India, he got himself on to the scorer's list with a deft header. Against the Mumbaites, Chima played more as a specialist striker as he did against Dempo too.

"I knew Air-India would have a marker on me. If I played my usual game, there would always be one of their men in my half and that would needlessly tax our defence." The advanced schools of football have certainly made Chima a more complete player.







How exactly did this change come about? "It is something you've got to learn if you are keen on a career there. There is no such thing as a specialist striker or a defender etc.in their brand of football. You must learn bits of everything....adapt to their style.

"The Danes, for instance, combine innate flair with a lot of physical play. In Norway, the accent is more on defensive football. They often play five medios, four defenders and one striker while in England, the accent is on long aerial balls especially down the flanks. Power and speed, however, are the cornerstones," Chima (who said he earned a call-up for Nigeria's World Cup qualifier against South Africa) elaborated.

"When I went to Europe, people agreed that I was talented. They also agreed I was very lazy and that there was a lot of room for improvement. For instance, I had to rid myself of the tendency to dribble too much when a pass would suffice. Now, I hold on to the ball only when there is no other option," he said.

Not too long ago, another Nigerian Stephen Abarowei had said much the same thing. It didn't take Abarowei a stint in Europe to realise that but it explains why these two stand out in the cluttered Indian football canyas.

This, however, does not suggest that Chima and Abarowei play the same brand of game. True, both use their superior build to advantage but while the taller JCT star is more of a winger, Chima functions from the middle and in a much wider zone. Whether he will be allowed the space or whether he will be able to step up his pace to create space for himself now that his game is known is a matter of conjecture but the beginning, it must be said, was good.

Getting a toe-hold in Europe was difficult. "I wasn't really sure of what to expect. Seeing them on TV and being a part of that set-up are two totally different things." There were also problems with his agent ("he was too greedy") but Chima doesn't want

Chima with East Bengal Technical Director P.K.Banerjee (right) at the Salt Lake stadium to dwell on that. "It's over and done with. I am my own agent now," he said and left it at that.

It was also quite some time before the settling-down pangs at his first club, Torquay, in the English second division, were over. "It took me seven matches to get used to their pace, their style of play and even the flight of the ball. I realised that I could get-by with whatever I did in India. The difference was that it had to be done at a much faster pace.

"When I left, football was a more laid-back game here. You are given the leeway to show your skills. There you've got to earn it. The emphasis is more on a team game for, to sustain yourself through individual play, you've got to be really outstanding."

Off-the-field, however, things weren't that difficult, "thanks largely to a supportive family (wife Kathy and kids Diya and Okema)."

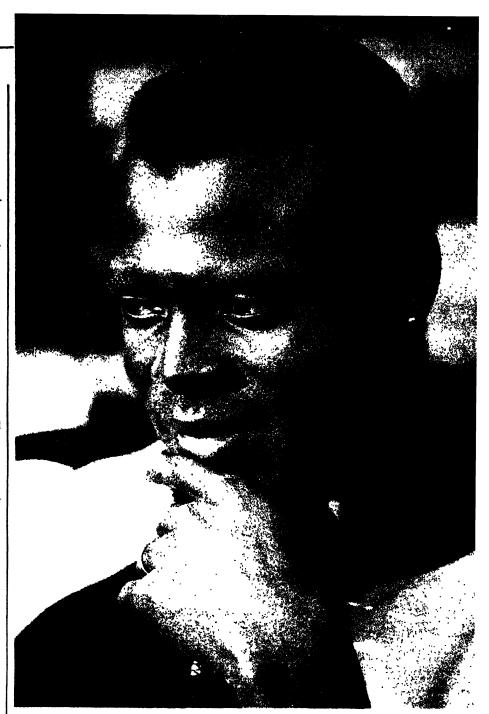
After a four-month stint in Torquay, beginning at the fag end of 1993, Chima moved to first-division club Grimsby. And that was where the first seeds of change were sown.

"Grimsby manager Allan Buckley felt I would be more useful coming from behind. He made me play in different zones, from defence to upfront before deciding on using me as a withdrawn forward. It's been that way since," he said.

Norway's Songdal Club bought him in 1995 before Chima moved to Ikast FS in Denmark, on a four-year contract, last year. This first division club, he said, went into the Danish League winter sabbatical, placed fourth. And the abony-hued powerhouse made capital of the three-month break to visit India, as a tourist and footballer.

Till the League ends, he wants to stay focussed on matters football but for two weeks before he goes back, Chima and the family want to see the country.

Mohun Bagan, it was learnt, was set to field him in the National League finals but, with the green-and-maroons having failed to make the cut themselves, East Bengal it had to be.



The red-and-gold camp certainly are not complaining. From technical director P.K.Banerjee to captain Debasish Pal Chowdhury everyone feels his presence is just what the doctor ordered, especially after a prolonged lean run. Even Christopher Kem, the Dempo skipper, felt that with Chima and Kenyan Sammy Omolo, East Bengal will be a difficult proposition in the National League.

Asked whether the Philips National League is a step in the right direction, Chima said: "The arrival of big-money is good news. But only with proper channelisation will there be an uplift in the standard. The infra-structure too must be righted. There is no stress on building junior teams here. Ikast, for instance, has two senior sides and teams in under-16, under-12, under-8 and under-5 age groups. The beginning, however, is encouraging."

He is no longer the "New kid in town" (which is what his motorcycle said when he hit the scene in 1985) with a yen for football. He is now a worldly-wise man for whom soccer is 'business'. And that could well read as scoring goals and setting them up.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Prince Albert of Monaco (centre) has always been a fierce advocate of fair play and ethics in sport

Women's Gymnastics Team (GBR)

During a competition in Hungary, one of the local gymnasts was injured during practice, and the captain of the English team decided to reduce by one the number of team members to re-establish equality. The Hungarian team won the competition.

Herberth Joel Mena Argaez (MEX)

Following his victories in the eliminations and semi-finals of the national wrestling tournament, the young Mena Argaez (age 10) reached the final. He had thrown his opponent and had him in a hold with his shoulder about to touch the mat. The referce was going to declare Mena Argaez the logical winner, who then saw that his opponent was bleeding from the nose and was crying. He relaxed his hold and asked the referee to have him cared for before recommencing the match. After being looked after and having recovered his strength, his opponent won the match. As a result of his lair-play, Mena Argaez was only national vice-champion

Sometimes athletes set examples for others to follow by their exemplary attitudes both on and off the field. They stand out for their deep sense of respect for themselves or for their adversaries, the referee and the rules. Here are some examples worth recording

Rodrigo Aranguena(PER)

During the trials for the Olympic Games in Seoul, this archer noticed that his opponent, Carlos Hora, could not finish his series of shots due to the blockage of his weapon. Aranguena, who was in the middle of his competition, declined to continue and asked to recommence the event. In the subsequent elimination, he did not have the same success and his opponent qualified in his place.

Francisco Buscato(ESP)

During a basketball game between

Real Madrid and Joventut de Badalona, Buscato dribbled and shot at the basket. He saw that a player on the opposite team had fallen and he threw the ball out to allow the player to be substituted.

Dong-Ho Lee (KOR)

During an Asia Cup ice-hockey game between China and Korea, Dong-Ho Lee intervened to separate two players who were fighting. An opponent took advantage of the situation to score a goal, leaving the final result in a draw.

Arthur Ashe (USA)

He was the first black tennis-player to win grand slam tournaments: the US Open in 1969, the Australian Open in 1970, Wimbledon in 1971. At the end of his career he continued to transmit the message of fair play around the world, dedicating himself to educational and social efforts to promote the dignity of man

Dino Zoff (ITA)

Goalkeeper of the Italian national team, today a club manager, Dino Zoff has continuously been acknowledged

during his career for his extreme courtesy and team spirit. His respect for his opponent and the decisions of the referee still guide his approach to sport today.

Cesar Rezilioli (ITA)

Cesar Rezilioli participated in the rowing competition at the Olympic Games in Rome, Tokyo and Mexico, and in five world championships, and won 32 national titles. In 1960, during the world championship in Yugoslavia, the Italian team made up of Rezilioli and Beltrami stopped to pick up an oar lost by the Hungarians. The Hungarians won the gold medal and the Italians finished in sixth place.

Racing Club de France rugby team (FRA)

During the semi-final of the

Arthur Ashe was probably the most dignified player to grace a tennis court, and he always preached about equality, both in sport and in life





ASSOCIATED PRESS



national rugby championship, the Racing Club de France team played against the Toulouse RC. In the 24th minute, a Toulouse player attempted a drop-kick but the ball passed just under the crossbar. The referee, blinded by the sun, allowed the point. The Racing team unaware of the error, accepted the decision of the referee and Toulouse won (†3-12). After the match, the losers explained that they always accept the decision of the referee and that their defeat was not only the result of this refereeing error.

Jean Presset (SUI)

Goalkeeper and later trainer and instructor of juniors, he has been a constant example of fair play. Currently president of the cultural commission of Panathlon International, he constantly promotes the ideas and goals of the movement. Moreover, he is the author of the "Fair Play Charter" which is starting to be used by different Swiss

organisations and schools.

Children forming the Olympic rings at Lillehammer. The crowds there were very supportive to all the participating nations

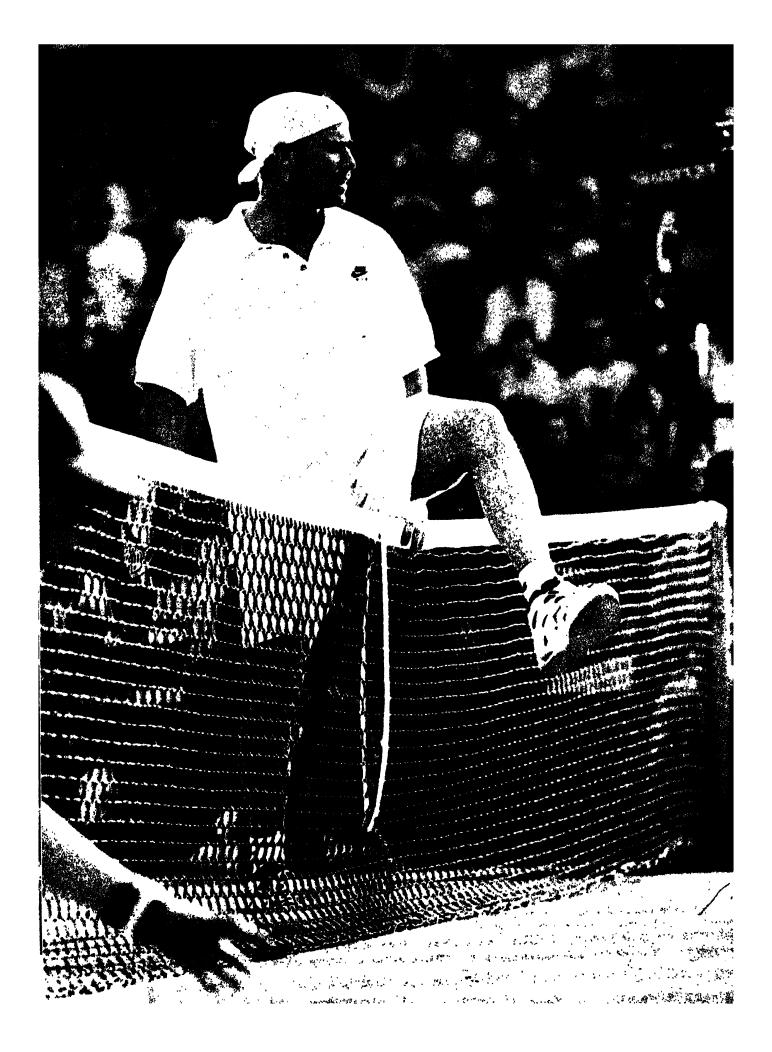
H.S.H. Prince Albert of Monaco (MON)

For his attitude of fair play in the practice of high-level sport, his constant activities in favour of the International Association for Non-Violent Sport and for his intervention at the forum of the United Nations in favour of ethics in sport and the activities of the International Fair Play Committee.

XVII Winter Games in Lillehammer --- The Norwegian audience (NOR)

They expressed their enthusiasm for athletes from all nationalities, recognizing equally the qualities of those less "fortunate". By their conscientiousness and sporting spirit, the people of Norway contributed to the total success of the Games, from the sporting, cultural, humanitarian and environmental point of view.

COURTESY OLYMPIC REVIEW



IMPERFECT HERO!

ANDRE AGASSI was World No. 1 last January. A year later, he had slumped to No. 8 and falling further. The charismatic star continues to baffle fans with his up and down career

ETE SAMPRAS won the Australian Open just over a month ago. Andre Agassi was not there.

Andre was not there!

Disrespect? Laziness? Too much passion for Brooke Shields? Too little passion for tennis? Or a 26-year-old guy who needed to regroup to start another season?

With Agassi you never know. His every move is subject to criticism and suspicion. Agassi is coming off a forgetful year in which he was hounded out in the first round of Wimbledon and was frustrated constantly. The Australian Open at the beginning of the new year with its fierce heat did not seem like a wise idea.

"I want to focus on the big picture. That's why I didn't play in Australia. I wanted to work on the fundamentals my game needs," says the former wonder boy who is clearly on a slide in his career.

So instead of sweating it out Down Under, Agassi had planned to start his

Andre Agassi, blessed with charisms and talent, needs to refocus on his career once again

season in a Davis Cup match in Brazil; but that plan was derailed when he got injured.

Last year, he was ranked No.1 in the world before the same tournament at the San Jose Arena. This year, he is No.8. "It's not too bad to be No.8 in the world, but somehow it seems bad when I do it," says the Jumpin' Jack Flash of tennis.

Agassi lost in the San Jose final last year, one of a string of 1996 losses. But he won the tournament in 1995 when he had a terrific season. Agassi's great 1995 run, which actually began with a victory at the US Open in September 1994, included winning the Australian, getting the No. 1 ranking and a 26-match winning streak. But it all came to a crashing halt last year, like it has so often in the roller-coaster ride that is Andre Agassi's career.

"He just wasn't there mentally, and that was it," his coach and former top player Brad Gilbert declares.

But, as with everything with Agassi, it seems more complicated. Maybe he has lapsed into indifferent form, when he constantly failed to meet expectations?

'One year is great, the next one not,"says the culprit. "You look at my years as a professional and it has a roller-coaster look to it. I'm not proud of it."

His entire career has been mercurial. He has been such a staple of our sports diet for so long that it seems Agassi should be running out of time. "People think he's like 35,"says Gilbert. "He's only 26. He's still got a lot left in him."

But for years, Agassi has been larger than life and certainly larger than tennis. No wonder the legendary tennis writer Bud Collins wrote some years ago: "The Andre Agassi phenomenon has no precedent in tennis. Just when Andre appears to believe that there is no real compelling tennis before him, so it must be admitted that the game's century-or-so BA (Before Andre) contained no one as astounding, atypical or appealingly absurd as Andre."

In that article Collins went on to write some of the most prophetic and colourful verse about tennis' imperfect hero. This rare ham is the Burger King of the game ... the sovereign, the self-proclaimed high priest of, amen, rock 'n roll tennis ... To Andre, the traditional rules are for

other people. The path less rocky works just fine for him. Andre can be rich and famous just by being ... well Andre.

"I ain't going to be what you want me to be, that could be Andre's credo. He hasn't broken any laws in being ASSOCIATED PRESS different, only the hearts of establish-mentarians ... if Andre claims fact for something dubious, like his shady Davis Cup injuries, he talks himself into believing it. Andre believes only Andre ... Have it my way he seems to say. Only, Andre is never

quite sure where the commercial ends and life intrudes."

No wonder Gilbert declares, "Andre's more to write about. He's beyond tennis." Which, after all, is why we are interested. Sampras is the most dominating male tennis player of our



time, but he is not beyond tennis. He is tennis and because of that — despite his obvious and undeniable athletic prowess — the public seems to find him boring. It is one of sport's great hypocrisies. Athletes who are simply the best in their sports are called dull.

But if they offer something beyond the court, we criticise them for being

At a press conference; Agassi is known to be witty and charming

shallow and trivial.

Agassi, offers more, but is labelled shallow. There is his fiancee, Brooke Shields, his past liasion with Barbra Streisand, his mega exposure from Nike, his private jet, his hometown of Las Vegas, his rebellious fashion statements. When he ships out his mobile phone—"What's up, Dog?" he says—during interviews, he seems to conform to every Agassi stereotype.

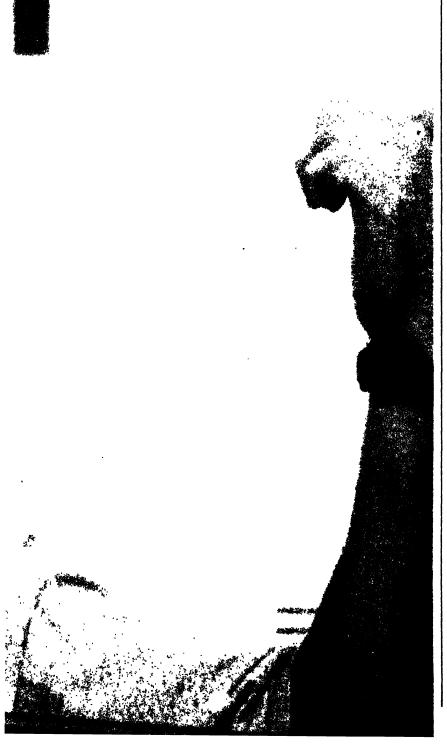
The aura of excitement travels with him. Like Borg, he is a magnetic personality who transcends tennis. But where tee nyboppers screams followed the enigmatic Swede, Agassi appeals to an uni-sex teen spirit. That indefinable coolness — could be the clothes, the hair, the attitude or just his unpretentious way of eating Mexican takeaway on his Lear Jet — seems hypnotic to kids, the vital group of people that tennis has lost to other competitive sports like basketball.

And yet, there is another side to Agassi. He is ultra-sensitive, often serious and deeply emotional. When a reporter implied a few weeks ago that Agassi was late, he checked his watch and said, "I was completely on time. If you were waiting, then you were early." When told that his public persona had been of a "narcissistic and self-absorbed" individual, Agassi seemed stunned and hurt, even though his "Image is Everything" ad is seven years old.

In truth, there is more to Agassi than image. His Las Vegas foundation provides money for a variety of Nevada-based children's groups. It has clothed more than 2000 children, has helped build a Boys and Girls' club, complete with a recreation room, which houses children whose parents are in jail or in drug rehabilitation. And he is emotional. On the Olympic Games medal stand in Atlanta, he wept.

"There was no question to me in my mind," he said, "if I could only have one success or one trophy, it would be the gold medal." The Olympic gold medal is beyond tennis. Just like Agassi ...the player who moves beyond tennis.

Andy O'Brien, Australia



freewheeling

AMAS, don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys. Or bank managers, or bookies or boxers or bureaucrats. After what happened in this West Australian city a few weeks ago, I'm convinced there's only one course for junior to take—the golf course. Perth hosted cricket and golf at their highest levels that weekend and having seen my share of both I was forced to compare the two sports. I

Golf, in terms of clothing and courses seems more colourful than cricket



discovered one had a lot more fringe benefits.

It was a hot weekend. So hot that in the pressboxes of the WACA and the Vines which hosted the Heineken International Golf, there was a threat floated that the next person who said "it's hot" would be shot under the stating-the-bleeding-obvious laws. At the Vines it was hot enough to be able to drink several "clear out the main sponsors brew" without pausing. At the WACA ground it had been so hot that only mad dogs, unlucky or unthinking people would have sat out in the sun in those melt-your-bottom seats to watch the fifth Test between Australia and the West Indies. The heat more than the dead rubber had kept the crowds away.

But whether you braved the heat and the car parks, or did nothing more strenuous than point the remote control through that weekend, either way you visited the WACA and the Vines. Hard not to, if you had an interest in sport.

The combination of the golf and the cricket was irresistible, a highlight of the local sporting calendar. The two

sports commanded our attention and ultimately invited our comparison. Both are establishment sports which strive to maintain their gentlemanly heritage and both are played on manicured lawns. Now let me clarify that I have never ever been, in all my years of sports journalism, a golf fan. Why spoil a casual stroll down lovely green lawns by needless interruptions of hitting a small ball? Hockey at-a-stop, nah not for me!

Yet the golf at the Vines seemed more colourful. While the cricketers wore innocuous whites, the golfers wore adventurous colour schemes. It should be the other way around, one thought. And coming to think of it, there is nothing innocuous about Curtly Ambrose rapping Mark Waugh on the temple with a vicious lifter, or sending him to the ground with a bouncer. And there is surely nothing innocuous about a sport in which every batsman has to wear a helmet, pads and a box, yet still has bruises to ice every night.

Indeed it is not uncommon for a cricketer to go to bed with a splitting headache because he ducked too slowly. Tournament golfers don't go to beds with headaches....although if the gossip is to be believed, a few wake up with them thanks to the evening before.

In the pursuit of their profession, golfers don't have to encounter opponents with nicknames like "Whispering Death,' 'Fiery' or 'Typhoon.' The most terrifying thing they face is a downhill putt.

Tough for a cricketer is a torn

hamstring or a few stiches above the eyes. Tough for a golfer is a camera click during their backswing.

If some cricketers don't look like athletes, then not a single golfer would qualify either. Ian Woosnam or Craig Perry could be your neighbour, the one with the liking for fast food and loads of beer. The golfers' little black books are full of phone numbers of good restaurants, not good physiotherapists. They reconstruct their swing, not their knees.

Golfers aren't washed up at 35. They go on playing and winning big money until they are 70. And just to make sure they don't get worn out, they have a guy who carries their bag around the course for them.

The cut is something that happens to John Daly or Ian Baker Finch, not something that is held together by stiches. You see, golfers do their bleeding on the inside. They apparently play a game of mental, not physical resilience. I'm told that if you ever watched a budding young pro practise the same shot out of a sand trap for three hours, you'll understand.

Golfers say that with \$300,000 riding on a putt, a 2 metre sitter, takes on the appearance of a 20m monster. And that a one-stroke lead after the third day is a guarantee of insomnia. I don't know about you, but I'd sooner have the chance to putt for \$300,000—over any distance, after a sleepless night, with a hangover—than face Curtly on a WACA hardtop full of cracks. Andy O'Brien, Australia



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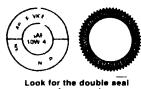
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With his recent performances, Saurav Ganguly seems destined for a long, glittering career

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THE ROCK

In times of crisis, Rahul Dravid is the cricketer on whom everybody can rely upon

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CAUTION: BUMP AHEAD!

Frank Williams is now embroiled in a court case facing manslaughter charges for the death of former racing champion Ayrton Senna







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GOODRICKE CHESS

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF RAHUL DRAVID BY PATRICK EAGAR



MAN FOR THE FUTURE!

SAURAV GANGULY, after a brilliant start, seems destined for a long, glittering career

ALL it a hangover of our colonial past or give it any other name, but it is always a special feeling to do something extraordinary in front of the sahibs—in their own backyard. And, if it is cricket, it's got to be Lord's which is still considered to be the Mecca of the game.

So, when a boy from Behala chose to write a new chapter in the history of Indian cricket by hitting a century on Lord's 'hallowed' turf in his maiden Test innings, the entire nation applauded the feat. The Englishmen just could not believe it.

Making history and then fading into it is a common phenomenon in Indian sport. Suitil Gavaskar was the first to point out that Saurav should be left alone to chart out his course in the game. The pressures of two successive centuries can be choking. But Saurav has since continued to wield the willow with both grace and grit to emerge from history. Saurav is clearly a man of the future.

A trifle under-rated, Saurav has shown in the one-off Test versus Australia in Delhi and back-to-back series against Hansie Cronje's South Africa that there aren't many better off-side players in the game today than him.

Just give him something driveable outside the off stump. What will follow is a classical cover drive right out of the MCC cricket manual. Even the precision cricket of Bob Woolmer has not been able to contain Saurav in the area between point and mid-off.

After the Kanpur Test, where he played two little gems—described by Sunil Gavaskar as sweet as rosogollas—he was asked how he managed to find the gap through the cover against the best fielding side in the world. Saurav, almost apologetically said, he could play that shot even blind-folded.

In the days of pyjama cricket, it is not easy to maintain a straight bat.

The fact that he still has one of the straightest of bats in the game means he is constantly working on his technique. He may not have been a big success against the fearsome Allan Donald in South Africa, but in the Durban Test when the others were at sea against the rising ball, Saurav had no problem in ducking.

Though not as gifted as his captain Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav sees the ball early which gives him that fraction of a second more to either go for the hook—a shot he is not afraid to play—or get out of harm's way.

His critics harp on his strokelessness on the onside. The word going around world cricket is: "just bowl at his pads." Well, to an extent it is true and

Sunil Gavaskar offering tips to Saurav Ganguly during the tour to South Africa



AMIYA TARAFDAR

Saurav acknowledges it: "It is not that I can't play on the on side. Maybe I don't have the same flow on the leg-side as the off."

However, no international bowler—Donald included—has been able to get Saurav by bowling at his pads. "It is a futile exercise really, for, even if you beat him on the flick or the glance, no umpire will give a lbw decision if the bowler is bowling a leg-stump line," one of Saurav's teammates pointed out.

The strategy has worked in the one-dayers though when Saurav has often been bottled up, he is forced to play a reckless shot or attempt a cheeky single to keep the scoreboard moving.

And, here lies the soft underbelly of Saurav's batsmanship—running between the wickets. It is not that he runs slowly. According to Dr. Ali Irani, the Indian physio's yardstick, a player should be able to complete at least 11 'runs' in 60 seconds, to pass a fitness

test. Of course, the distance involved is only half the length of the pitch. On this count, Saurav rates at par with Azhar and Sachin with 13. Only Ajay Jadeja manages 14.

The problem with Saurav is that, like Sanjay Manjrekar and Navjot Singh Sidhu, Saurav is not a very good judge of a run. Nor does he ground the bat early as one should, when going for a tight run. To make matters worse, he is often guilty of looking at the fielder, thereby wasting precious seconds which often is the difference between death and glory.

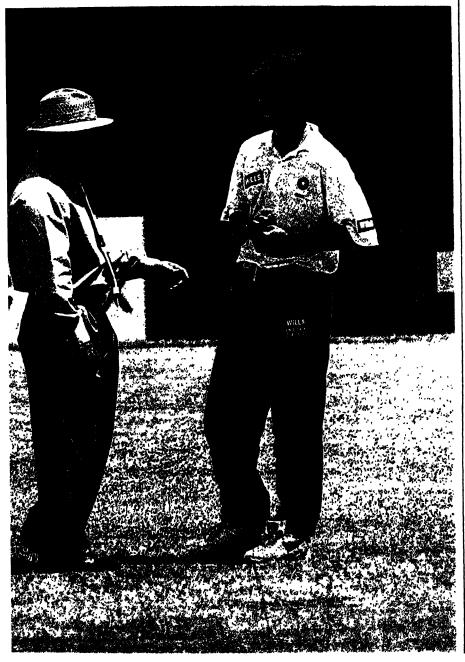
The West Indians may not be the same force in the field as Jonty Rhodes and co., but international cricket is all about confidence. It hardly helps the team if your mates are sceptical about your calling. It is something Saurav has to sort out quickly.

Facing fast bowling is no big deal for Saurav, but given the West Indian quickies' penchant for the short-pitched bowling to "soften 'em up", Saurav must look to curb the hook shot. Nothing is wrong with hooking, but Saurav tends to hit it in the air unlike Mohinder Amarnath who showed during the Caribbean tour of 1983 a thing or two about playing fast bowling.

His fertile cricketing brain should find a way to plug these little holes in technique. Be it Geoff Boycott or Sunil Gavaskar, Saurav has had no problems of walking up to senior pros to seek their tips. Ego is something he leaves behind in his hotel room, for Saurav believes he learns every time he goes out into the middle.

In England, he conquered the moving ball; in South Africa, he didn't allow himself to be bounced out. In the West Indies, Saurav would be looking to meet fire with fire. Tons of runs would be an ideal wedding gift for Dona, who will be touring with him for the first time. Saurav owes it to her as well as the team for having stood firmly with him during the crisis (Dona and he faced stiff opposition from both the families) which followed his secret marriage registration in August last year.

Sumit Mukherjee









THE PALLY OF SWEDEN



ARRIVE ALL W. O.

WEDDED BLISS!

SAURAV GANGULY gets married in a traditional Bengali ceremony





(Right): Chief Minister Jyeti Basu brought political glamour to the wedding by his presence



(Left):Done garlands Saurav during the marriage ceremony



(Right): Saurav and Done look pleased as punch. Done's bright red saree with leaves designed in gold thread was gifted to her by Brahmacheri Muralbhai, secretary of the 'Adyapith Kalamandir'

(Left): Cricketer Arun Lei (second from right) along with Snehesish (second from left) and his wife (extreme left) pose with the newly-wedded couple

BY WINDIE MERHERHEE

E is young. He is classy.
And he is confident.
Teammates say he does not need an air conditioner in his room. Meet Rahul Dravid, who is being dubbed as Mr. Cool of Indian cricket.

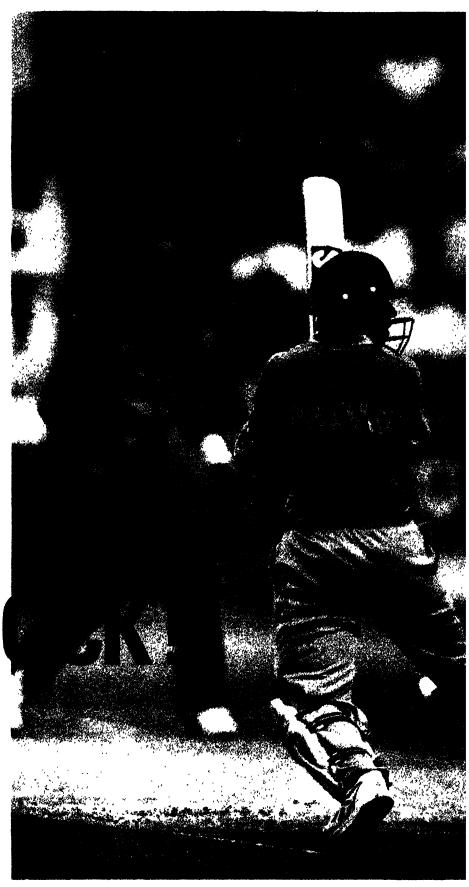
Nothing ever seems to upset him. It matters little whether the score is 14 for three, or 340 for two when he goes to the middle. For Dravid knows that he has a job to do and he believes in doing it properly. It is just that, of late, he has been doing it better than the others.

There is a quiet confidence about his batting which strikes you at once. It is almost as if he is in control of his destiny. The run-up to his sensational debut at Lord's last year, where his superb 95 got lost in the euphoria of Saurav Ganguly's historic century, was pretty rough-shod. The selectors picked and dropped him without giving him a game. For any youngster, it was only natural to feel frustrated, but not Dravid. "I looked at it as a learning experience," he says going down memory lane.

A rare betrayal of emotion on the field by Dravid was witnessed during the Challenger Trophy in Hyderabad in 1995. It was the needle match between Mohammad Azharuddin's

THE R

A lot of cricketers get into the Indian team. Very few, however, give the impression of wanting to stay there. Rahul Dravid is an exception, and, by the looks of it, he's doing quite nicely, thank you





When Dravid strikes, fielders take evasive action. Here Pat Symcox and Dave Richardson are at the receiving end

'Seniors' versus Sachin Tendulkar-led 'India A'. Sachin got out cheaply in that match, but Dravid and ironically, Ganguly, played some superb shots to get the asking rate under control. Dravid was batting on 60-odd when he called Ganguly for a sharp single after having played the ball to wide mid-on. Ganguly did not respond; Dravid found himself at the same end as his partner.

Only Ganguly can confirm the range of Dravid's vocabulary, but even from the media centre one could make out how livid Dravid was as he



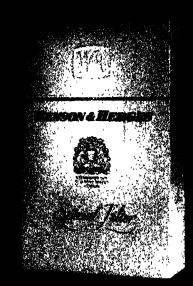
Krish Mackerdhuj (centre) watches Dravid receiving the man-of-the-match cheque after the final Test in South Africa. Dravid has the potential to make this into a common occurrence

kept glaring back at Ganguly during that long walk back to the pavilion.

But once the initial disappointment had worn off, Dravid was back to his usual self. It was not so much the pressure of being under the scanner (the tournament served as the selection trials for the Wills World Cup) that had caused Dravid to boil over, but it was the frustration of having got the match under control, and yet not being able to finish the job, that made him blow a fuse.

The next day, he was almost philosophical about it. Asked whether

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the run out had cost him a berth in the World Cup squad, Dravid had said: "It happens in cricket. I would love to play in the World Cup, but even if they (selectors) don't pick me, I know my chance will come,"

Well, it was almost prophetic. The selectors acknowledged that they were impressed with Dravid, but still decided against blooding him in the World Cup. However, they gave him an advance ticket on the plane to

After Dravid's finished with them, it's the bowlers who gaze at the skies for divine help

England. The rest is, of course, history.

Many sympathised with him when
he failed to get his century on debut.
Dravid was disappointed, but lost no

sleep over it. And when the big moment arrived at the Wanderers, typically like Dravid, there was no exaggerated mannerisms but just a raised bat to acknowledge the cheers from the spectators and the dressing

In-between he had a relatively low-key home series versus the South Africans and the triangular Titan Cup one-day meet. However, he was hardly to blame for it. In India, if you happen to succeed against fast bowling, the selectors will make you into an opener. It happened to M.L. Jaisimha, Dilip Sardesai, Anshuman Gaekwad, Dilip Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri. Poor Dravid was no exception.

He was pushed up and down the order before being asked to open the innings in Calcutta. Not one to make a fuss, Dravid employed his straight bat to give India a decent start. India lost the Test, but Dravid came out with his reputation intact at Eden Gardens.

CAREER STATS

Date of birth: 11th January, 1973 Debut in Test cricket: Vs England, Lord's, 2nd Test, 1996

In Test Cricket

Ť	inn\$	NO	RUNS	AVG	HS	100	50	CT
9	16	1	679	45.26	148	1	4	11
* Score	ed 95 and	86 in th	e first two in	nings of his To	est career,	vs Eng	land at	Lord's
(2nd Te	est) and Ti	ent Brid	lge (3rd Test)	ı		•		,

* Highest individual innings: 148 vs South Africa, Johannesburg, 3rd Test, 1st innings, 1996-97.

In One-day Internationals								
M	INNS	NO	RUNS	AVG	HS	100	50	CT
28	27	2	755	30.20	90	0	6	11

Updated till February 24, 1997 Compiled by Hari Prasad Chattopadhyay

The great thing about his batting is that he is an innings builder. Accumulation is his forte rather than dazzing strokeplay. Perhaps that is why he and Azhar make such a wonderful pair in the middle and enjoy batting together. Dravid loves to play in the 'V' and enjoys driving on

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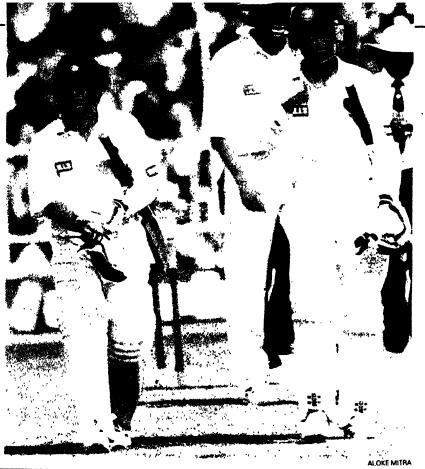
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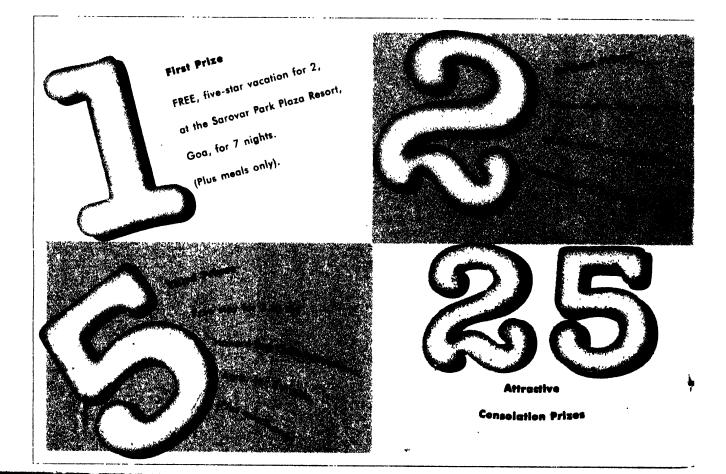
For Dravid every innings is a job that has to be done, and captain Tendulkar holds him in high repard

the rise. He may be a bit vulnerable just outside the off-stump, but unlike Ganguly, he plays his strokes all round the wicket.

Much is being said about his 'rivalry' with Ganguly, but it is more a creation of the media than anything else. Having made their debut in the same Test, their careers will no doubt run parallel, but they are vastly different players, and individuals, who have a healthy respect for each other's game.

Ganguly may have stolen a march over him by scripting back-to-back hundreds in England on debut, but Dravid over-shadowed him on the pacy and bouncy wickets of South Africa.

Yes, they do have a common weakness—both are poor runners between the wickets. Sunil Gavaskar has even suggested that the duo be



made room partners on tour, so that they can talk about their game and have enough confidence in each other's calling especially as they are likely to have many long partnerships in the middle.

An excellent team man Dravid can field in any position, but his specialisation is at the short-leg position. Off the field however, he is the most low profile cricketer in the Indian squad. For someone who is so shy, Dravid's fan following, specially amongst the fairer sex is simply baffling. In fact, only Ajay Jadeja gets more fan mail in the Indian team than him from teenage girls. He is scared to go out shopping alone in Bangalore for the fear of being mobbed by girls.

But all this name and fame has not really changed Dravid. He still retains that endearing down-to-earth trait—he still remains the typical guy next door. If you ask him for an interview, chances are he will politely refuse stating he has hardly done anything to deserve the 'honour' He



Dravid with Azharuddin. The former is known for his solid defence, while the latter is an exponent of wristy stroke play

would rather watch the television than go out to a disco in the evening after a day's play.

Yet, beneath that cool exterior is a very determined young man who has

proved conclusively that he possesses nerves of steel. Allan Donald who was frustrated into giving him more than a mouthful will vouch for Dravid's mental toughness.

Rahul Dravid is what you call a thinking cricketer—and he remains a good outside bet as a future Indian captain.



Small reminders to watch out for the Grand-Finale of the BusinessWorld 'Hall of Fame'

contest (Issues dated 1st Maich '97 and 16th March '97). Wherein all ads that have won entry into

the 'Hall of Fame', since the contest started, will be displayed. Just select what you feel is the

best ad among these. Then fill in the Entry



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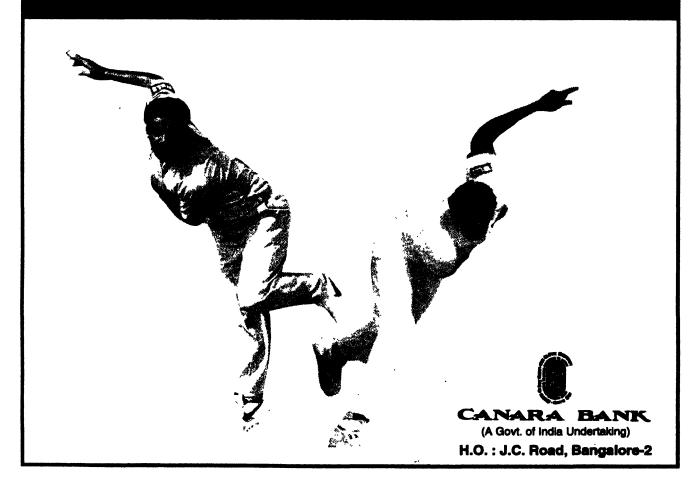
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Bowl to the beat of calypso music

Canara Bank wishes its employees
Venkatesh Prasad,
Sunil Joshi and all the members of the Indian cricket team all the luck in the forthcoming tour to the West Indies.



Shocking

THE performance of the Indian cricket team in South Africa is shocking. Some of the players in the team are perhaps amongst the richest sportsmen in the world. All our players have picked up the latest fashions, like stand up collars, sunglasses and what not. They have, however, not learned the basics of batting, bowling, fielding and running between the wickets.

As highly paid professionals representing India, are they not answerable for their performances or non-performances? Since they represent India and not the BCCI, they should be answerable to the people of India; the manager's report should be made public and

should not remain with the Board.

To stop tarnishing the image of the country again and again, India should play cricket only on home soil for a few years on true wickets and not on tailor-made ones. By doing so for 3/4 years, India will be prepared to compete with other foreign teams not only in India but also abroad.

It is high time that pressure should be put on the BCCI, legally or otherwise to stop organising these tours; the idea just seems to be to mint money. They should, for a change, apply their minds and use the finance for upgrading the facilities in order to bring out better all-round players.

SUPRIYO ROYCHOWDHURY, New Delhi.



India's performance in South Africa was disappointing

The Truth

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Congrats!

ONGRATULATIONS to Martina Hingis for winning the Australian Open final by vanquishing Mary Pierce. She has shown that a determined mind can go a long way.

She has also shown that no one is invincible, not even Mary Pierce. The 'Cartoon Corner' by Gopal Sarkar was superb.

AMIT BHATTACHARYA, Tinsukia.

Sports

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UNFAIR RANKINGS

BY PAUL FEIN, NEW YORK

Like the men's ATP
Tour, the WTA Tour has
introduced a new
ranking system, based
on cumulative points,
that rewards quantity
rather than quality. Its
introduction has been
widely criticised

HAT do you think of a sport where the worst results of players don't count in the rankings? How about a sport where poor results actually improve players' rankings?

Pro tennis commits both unpardonable sins. Since 1990 the ATP Tour's notorious "Best 14" ranking system has been widely and rightly denounced because only a player's 14 best tournaments count. Andre Agassi expressed it best: "Every time you step on the court, something should be on the line." Although it sounds too bad to be true, it's true: the ATP throws out an average of 40 per cent of bonafide tournament results.

The ATP then insults your intelligence when it claims the "Best 14" rule produces fair and accurate rankings. A quick example illustrates the injustice. In the 1996 year-end singles rankings, No.8 Agassi amassed 2,364 total points after playing 14 tournaments. None of his results were thrown out. Richard Krajicek edged Agassi for No.7 with 2,380 total points, mainly because he played 23

tournaments. Krajicek, whose U.S. Open first-round loss wasn't even counted, had far more quantity (nine more tournaments), but Agassi's record—on a tournament point average basis—clearly had more quality. However, tennis rankings must measure quality, and only a system producing tournament point averages does that.

Spanish philosopher George Santayana warned: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Regrettably, the COREL WTA TOUR can't even remember—or learn from—the present. The women's tour, as of December 23, 1996, dumped its fair and accurate averaging system in favour of a cumulative points system. The new WTA ranking system, like the ATP's discredited "Best 14," rewards quantity rather than quality, although it does not throw out any match results.

The following comparison of two hypothetical players' records show why the WTA's ranking system is fatally flawed. Both Player A and Player B, competing in tournaments of identical importance, win five tournaments and reach five finals and five semifinals to earn the same number of ranking points for those 15 tournaments. However, Player B, competes in nine more tournaments where she fares much worse, losing in the first, second and third rounds three times each. Player A has a better overall record because of her vastly superior loss record; but Player B, by amassing more total points, unfairly winds up with a better ranking.

Like the ATP Tour, the COREL WTA TOUR tries to rationalise its bogus

new ranking system, saying it "is designed to enhance the Tour's mission to strengthen player fields at worldwide tournaments and to enable fans to see the top players play each other more often, building intriguing rivalries and even greater excitement in women's tennis."

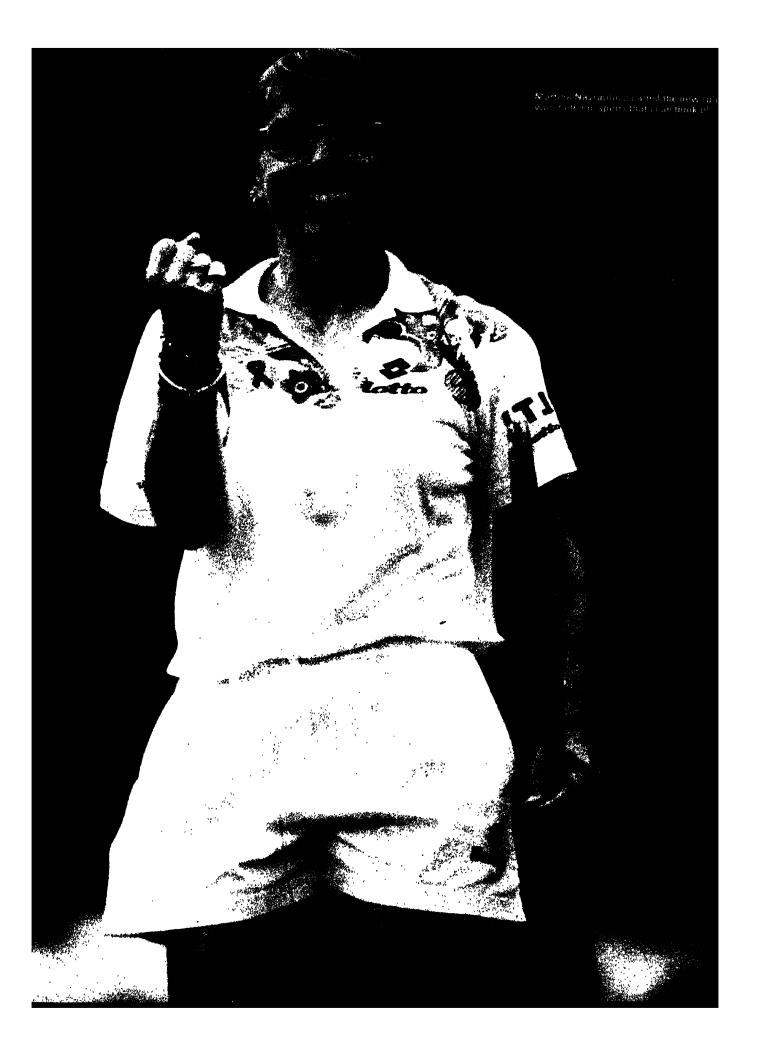
That's what its press release says anyway. Veronique Marchal, communications manager for the WTA, circumspectly says, "There's a hope that some of the bigger players (like Steffi Graf) may feel threatened and have to play more....But it has yet to be seen whether this actually will work and force that type of player to play more often."

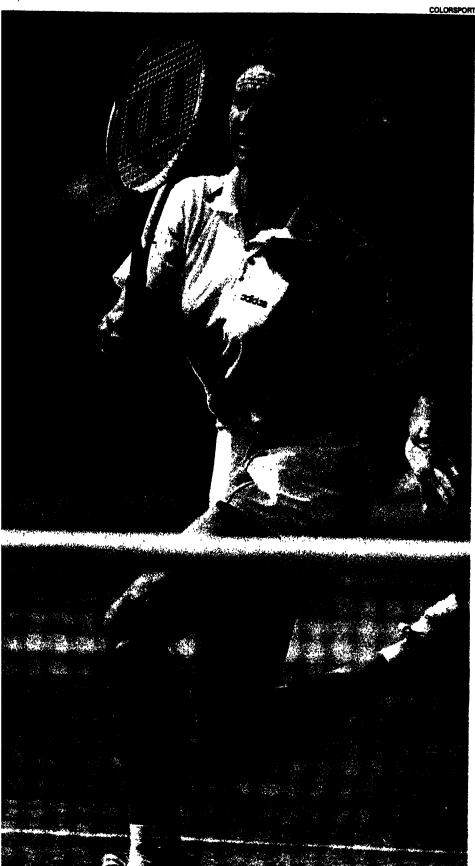
The ATP's ranking system has succeeded in inducing (coercing?) men to play more tournaments. The price, however, has proved extraordinarily high: unlair and inaccurate rankings; allegations of players "tanking" matches and playing halfheartedly; a decrease in doubles play and participation in Davis Cup and Olympic Games competition; more injuries and exhaustion; and grumbling by players that their schedule is too crowded and long.

Highly respected women's tennis figures such as Martina Navratilova, Pam Shriver and Mary Carillo have strongly criticised the "Best 14" blunder. Navratilova calls it "the worst rule in sports I can think of."

Carillo opposes the WTA's new ranking system and predicts it won't achieve the desired effects. "The idea that Graf or Seles should feel threatened by it to (have to) play more tennis is a pipe dream. Those two are only going to play when they feel like

COLORSPORT





Stoffi Graf will have to play more tournament in order to maintain her No.1 ranking

playing," says Carillo. "But the younger players are going to be playing much more tennis than their bodies should be playing in an effort to accumulate more points to get higher rankings and get sponsorship bonuses and all that. They're going to burn out. That, to me, is a disaster."

Both Tours should immediately adopt and abide by the following time-honoured Four Principles of Fair Rankings.

- 1. Rankings are intended to, and must, measure the results of singles players and doubles teams in sanctioned tournaments and international team competitions.
- 2. Rankings have this sole end in themselves. They must never be manipulated or subverted as a means to achieve other ends—no matter how desirable some people believe those other ends may be.
- 3. All singles and doubles match results in sanctioned competition must count—not merely the best results.
- 4. A point average system must be used to produce rankings because only a point average system can accurately measure the quality of a player's singles result and a doubles team's results. (Each pro association can determine a suitable minimum divisor—for example, 16 instead of the current 14—so that if Graf and Agassi play only 12 or 14 tournaments, their point totals will be divided by 16 to determine their point averages.)

In The Measure of Reality:
Quantification and Western Society,
1250-1600, Alfred W. Crosby argues
that modernity rests on measurement
and that you can't understand
anything unless you understand, and
master, measurement.

Until the WTA and ATP understand and master the measurement time, space and music—their rankings and resulting seedings will cheat players, perplex fans and tarnish tennis' reputation.

CASH DOWN!

PAT CASH, the former Wimbledon champion, ranked 755, depends on wild cards from organisers to take part in tournaments

AT CASH'S glorious moment came when he won the Wimbledon singles title in 1987. I was at ringside then. I heard the gasps of surprise that went around the Centre Court when the final point was played. Cash climbed up the barricade near the court, stepped on seats and went up to where his coach and Norwegian girlfriend was sitting. He hugged them both.

This happened for the first time in the stiff tradition of Wimbledon. A sudden expression of spontaniety and joy. And this happened in the presence of royalty—the Duke and Duchess of Kent. The Brits frowned but the worldwide TV audience just loved it.

Pat Cash then was handsome and virile. He had a muscular physique, shoulder length hair and that black and white headband that he made famous all over the world. He was the teenyboppers' ultimate sex symbol.

Ten years later, the scene is totally

different. He is now ranked 755 on the ATP computer list. He is the father of three children and has married twice. And he has become a true tennis

nomad. He has to depend on wild cards by tournament directors to have a chance to play in Tour events.

Recently, he was given a wild card for the Dubai Open. He lost in a creditable showing to Wayne Ferreira, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the second round. In fact, amazingly, he led 5-0 in the first set, knocking off Ferreira's equanimity with his bustling serve and volley game. But soon, Ferreira settled down, while Cash, lacking top class match play, wilted in the heat.

However, Cash was optimistic: "It's just a matter of getting a couple of matches under my belt. Ideally, I'd like to play another three or four tournaments and get through a few rounds and then I could start to do better. I'm asking for wild cards and seeing what happens, but I don't know from week to week where I'm going and that makes it tough. Some places are happy to have me and some places aren't."

His native country of Australia does not show too much of generosity to him. When he asked for a wild card for the Australian Open this year, the organisers hemmed and hawed before they finally gave him one. As for the Davis Cup set-up in Australia, they seem to have forgotten that he exists.

"I've not been made welcome by Davis Cup captains in Australia, which is disappointing." he says, "I've been invited to practise with the British team (Cash lives in London and practises at Queens Club) more or less whenever I want to, but I've never been invited by Tennis Australia to do anything at all, which is sad."

But Cash refuses to be disappointed. He is hoping that in his latest jump-start to his sputtering career, something like a fairy-tale will happen.

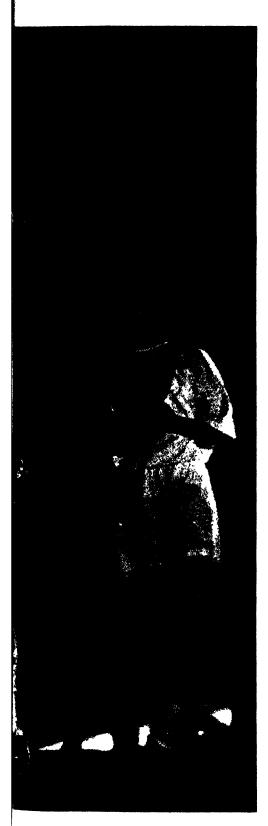
If the body and the spirit is willing, why not?
William Rhodes 23



ACUL



TURAL SAINT!



The heartbeat of the world stopped when MOHAMMED ALI lit the Olympic Flame at Atlanta with trembling hands. Today, despite Parkinson's disease, he is revered all over the world as a humane, deeply caring and compassionate man

VER since the world saw the trembling Mohammed Ali light the flame at the Atlanta Olympics, the interest in the former world heavyweight boxing champion has increased...that's if it had ever decreased in the first place. How is the man who floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee coping with the almost crippling Parkinson's disease? Has the former Cassius Clay changed?

For starters, reports of Ali's demise—particularly reports about his lack of mental acuity—have been greatly exaggerated. Ali, 55, has the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. He has tremors, slow movements and muscular rigidity that causes him to slur his speech. But all those who have met him and seen him from close quarters maintain that he is still Ali, the eternal child who has lately evolved into a cultural saint. He has launched himself on a tireless mission to bring mankind together.

Lonnie, 40, his wife of nine years says: "Mohammed knows he has this illness for a reason. It's not by chance. Parkinson's disease has made him a most spiritual person. Mohammed believes God gave it to him to take him to another level, to create another destiny."

What that destiny might be is not yet apparent. But it could have been

Mohammed Ali lighting the Olympic Flame at Atlanta. Perhaps one of the truly memorable moments of the Games glimpsed last year at Atlanta, when 3.5 billion people watched the three-time heavyweight champion slowly ascend the stadium steps and, with trembling hands, ignited the Olympic flame.

"Like everyone else in that stadium, and around the world—I was deeply moved," says noted American TV commentator Bob Costas. "Here's a guy who was the most alive of men—the most dynamic and beautiful athlete we'd ever know—and now, to an extent, he was imprisoned by Parkinson. His lighting that torch said something about the human spirit."

No one was more moved by the spectacle, and the world-wide affirmation that followed, than Ali himself. After the ceremony that night, Lonnie recalled, "He just sat in a chair in the hotel room with the torch. He kept turning it in his hands and looking at it. Mohammed couldn't believe the way people reacted to him. I think it gave him new courage. He knows now that people won't slight his message because of his impairment."

And what is his message?

"Love," says Lonnie. "Mohammed is all about love". That love has changed the man. Gone are the days when he claimed, "Look at this face. Ain't a mark on it. No other fighter looked this way. I'm the greatest."

In those days when asked whether he played golf he had replied: "I am the best. I just haven't played yet." Today, looking at a video in his Michigan farmhouse, of him in the 60's when he invented himself as the Greatest, he says,"I was crazy back then...Now everything I do I say to myself, 'Will God accept this'?...One day you wake up and it's judgement day."

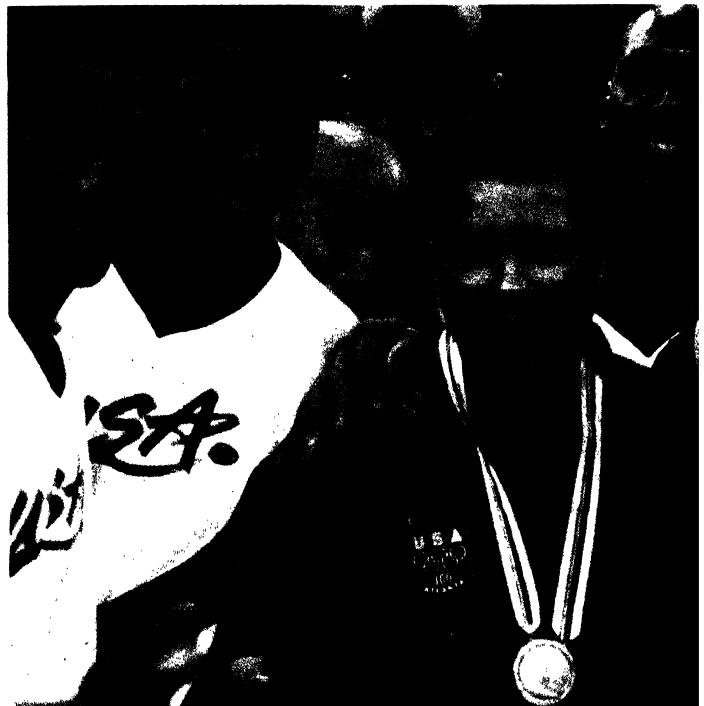
But he still has that famous sense of humour. When asked what he wants to do in the future, he replies, "Go to Mecca, pray five times a day...and stay pretty."

In the past decade Ali met with every high profile head of state in the world. He makes his living in part by charging appearance fees—as much as \$250,000—at conventions and shows around the world. But mostly his travels—he's on the roads on 275 days a year—take him to benefits for organisations such as UNICEF and

'Best Buddies', a charity that brings together the mentally impaired with those who are not. Whereever he goes, he plunges in among the sick and poor.

"God has Mohammed on a special mission," says Lonnie. "To unite people. He is very pure of heart...! find a lot of fulfilment in being with him."

Ali made his name by fighting, and he is a vocal supporter of the Nation of



Islam religion; his refusal to enter the military draft during the Vietnam war made him a symbol of the divisions in the USA at that time. But now this afflicted man offers himself as a vehicle for world-wide healing and unity. Deeply religious, he

Ali being presented with a honorary gold medal at Atlanta, in replacement for the one he lost many years ago. He is surrounded by the members of the US basketball team



increasingly sees his life in a spiritual context.

Lonnie has to keep after her husband to get him to talk. "He doesn't speak," she says, "because he doesn't like the way he sounds and he can get what he wants just by pointing." But religion is a subject Ali will talk about. He believes in heaven and hell and that with each good deed he is working his way to an eternal reward.

Ali's biographer, Tom Hauser tells of being in Jakarta in 1990 and of going to the Grand Mosque. "It was a regular Friday service," remembers Hauser," and maybe 500 worshippers were expected to be present. But word got around that Ali was there, and 200,000 people came down to see him. The Government had to call out the army to get him out of there."

At home in Berrien Springs (in the mid-80s, ready for a more relaxed existence Ali moved from Los Angeles to Berrien Springs, which is a two hour drive from Chicago), Mohammed Ali's palsied walk can quiet the crowds who come to see him. For them, he is the simplest of men. Though he has a pool and a pond and a view of the river, he lives at the end of a road, lined by modest bungalows and houses on an old farm where Al Capone used to lie low when the heat was on in Chicago.

A typical day at the Ali household starts around 9 a.m. with Ali facing

Mecca to say his prayers. Then, for a couple of hours at the dining table, he signs pamphlets that set out the basic tenets of Islam. He also signs a batch of photos which he sells through a dealer for \$120. But Ali, who has little interest in money hands them out like sweets to pretty much any fan who writes in and asks.

Often he lunches at McDonald's, where local kids lie in wait and the proprietor has designated an Ali Corner. Ali does not disappoint the kids. They want to know: Doesn't he get tired of writing his name?

"No. Never. The most I ever sign on one day was 2000."

Why did he change his name back in the 60s?

"Clay was my slave name. Ali means The Most High, but Clay mean dirt with mixed ingredients..."

Every day they come as if on a pilgrimage—specially the children. Ali calls them 'angels in exile'.

Yet, it seems ironical that Ali himself through Parkinson's is an angel in exile. In exile from the real world. Parkinson's Syndrome—a condition that mimics Parkinson's disease but in Ali's case could have been caused by boxing-related brain damage—was diagnosed in the mid eighties. But his current doctor believes Ali has Parkinson's disease (unrelated to boxing) largely because of the way his symptoms responded to medications. The doctor says Ali should have a normal lifespan. And the fire is still there. One writer narrated the following incident after a recent meeting with Ali:

"There are still questions you want to ask. Does he have any regrets?

"My children," he says, "I never got to raise them because I was always boxing and because of divorce." (Ali has five children from four marriages).

What about his illness? Does he ever get angry, frustrated?

"It's a blessing. I always liked to chase the girls. Parkinson's stops all that. Now I might have a chance to go to heaven."

What about boxing? Is he sorry he ever got into the ring?

"If I wasn't a boxer I wouldn't be famous. If I wasn't famous I wouldn't be able to do what I am doing now."

And what's that?

"Travel the world and love people and spread the word of God."

You start to ask another question, but he still has got boxing on his mind. He's on his feet throwing imaginary punches in bunches. "It would shock the world if I got into shape and came back. I want Holyfield! I want Tyson! To come back at 55, wouldn't that be something!"

Yes, it would be something. But then ask the millions who love and adore this man. They will tell you that Mohammed Ali has never really been away.

Andy O'Brien, Australia



CAUTION: BUMP AHEAD

When he's monitoring the progress of his cars on the track Frank Williams remains totally focussed on the TV screen and the computer monitor in the pits

Frank Williams and his car designers are facing trial on manslaughter charges for Ayrton Senna's death in '94.
The verdict could change the sport of F1 racing
28

BY KIO JACOB

F one was to ask anyone who followed the super-fast and highly stimulating sport of Formula One racing, as to who was the most ruthless, calculative and one of the most influential personalities involved in F1 racing, chances are that he would point his finger towards Frank Williams, the Chairman and Managing Director of Team Rothmans Williams Renault. In fact, he is often considered the anti-hero of the sport because of his ruthlessness and his desire to win, which borders on paranoia.

He is a regular feature in the Williams pit, slouched in his wheelchair, eyes and mind totally focussed on the television monitor in front, watching the drivers who race his cars, and then barking orders to his crew over the radio. The fact that he is paralysed from the neck down (courtesy a car accident) has not lessened his love for speed, or his love to win. The sport essentially remains his passion and his life.

Ever since his young days, Williams was interested in speed and was a voracious reader of car magazines like Motor and Autocar. He would read through the magazines and dream of speed. Initially, he did start off as a driver, racing saloon cars throughout Britain. The astute personality that he was, Williams soon realised that he would not be able to cut the ice in the top drivers' bracket. He also realised that as an organiser he could probably reach where he wanted-right at the top.

It was this vision, this inner calling that led him to put all his money and energy into building a team that would, in the long run, become the talk of the racing fraternity. It was a tough beginning, but he eventually put together his first team, in 1972, on a budget that was looked upon as ridiculous by those knowledgeable about the sport. At times, it was so bad that Williams had to run his business from a phone booth, but it must be said that he persisted with his vision. He knew that he would make it one

day and that his moment under the sun would surely come.

It took the Williams team a good seven years to win their first race in Formula One. It was the beginning.... Williams having tasted blood realised that his tryst with fame and success had only just began. In 1980 Alan Jones of Australia won for Williams his first Drivers Championship, Since then the Williams team has won the Drivers' Championship five times and has won the Constructors Championship for a record eight times, till the end of last season.

The passage of these years brought to the fore certain aspects of Williams' psyche. First was the business acumen that he possessed in large quantities. How else can you explain the fact that over the years he has succeeded in persuading his sponsors (and they include the biggest names in the industry) to pump in millions into his project?

Secondly, his innate scouting prowess. Williams was one man who could recognise talent from miles away, recruit them, and transform them into world beaters. Many eyebrows were raised when he signed on Damon Hill and then Jacques Villeneuve, but both drivers have proved that they were worth the trust placed on them by Williams.

Thirdly, what stood out was Frank Williams' ruthlessness. He had this habit of dropping drivers after they had completed their brief, read, win Williams the Championships. It happened with Prost and the latest casualty was Damon Hill. Here again, it must be understood that Williams always trusted his intuition and not cold logic. He had bred Damon Hill, and the latter won him the Championship but probably Williams thought that Villeneuve was a much better prospect than Hill in the long run.

It was these traits, these characterstics, that contributed to this larger-than-life persona of Frank Williams, a man respected, feared and also reviled by people associated with Formula One racing, Williams is also regarded as the most influential man in F1 racing after the FIA supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

Yet, these days, the talk in the racing circles is not about whether Williams can win the title with Villeneuve and Frentzen, or whether Schumacher in a better Ferrari could shut off all competition. These days the talk, in hushed tones though, is whether Williams, his technical

Williams with Senna. Both shared a passion for racing that bordered on an obsession



Adrian Newey with Patrick Head. They could face upto two years in prison if found guilty of manslaughter charges

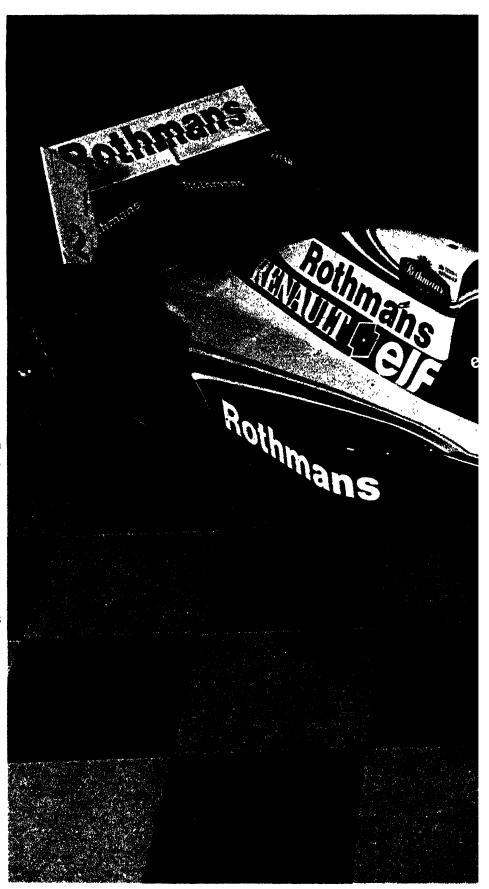
director Patrick Head, and his chief designer Adrian Newey can get themselves acquitted in Italian courts of manslaughter charges levelled against them following the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in '94.

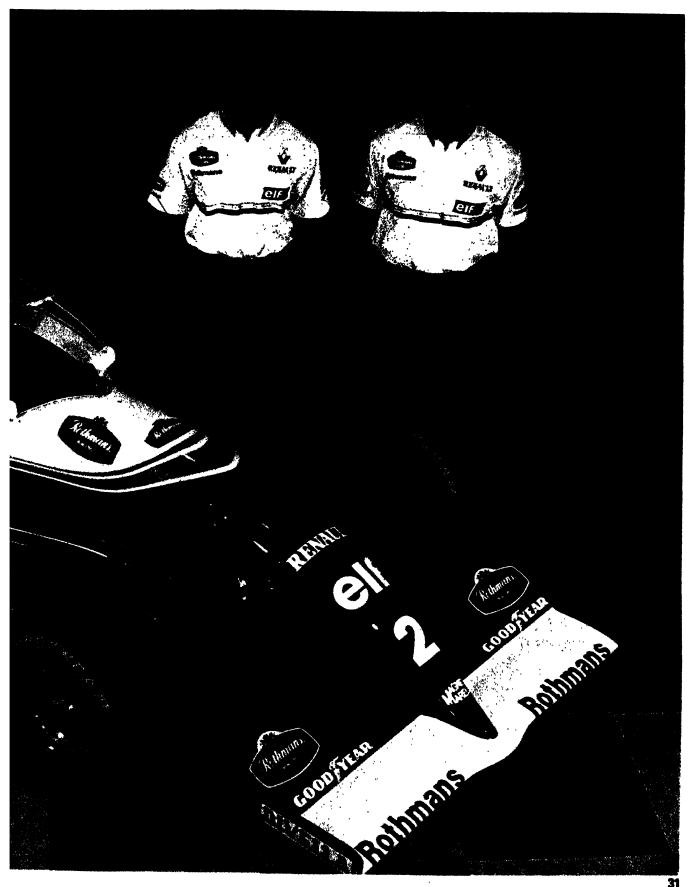
These charges are based on the presumption that Senna's death was caused by the faulty welding that caused a steering column failure that was responsible for the accident, and the resultant death of one of F1's most talented drivers ever.

Williams, who for a long time, had waited in the wings to hire Senna was thrilled to have him in his team, and both men shared a passion for the sport that bordered on obsession. In fact, both of them would spend hours talking about racing, the cars and the scope for improvement. Senna's death left him devastated and he said, "I had many sensations after Imola and the biggest was that there has been a terrible loss. Ayrton was a team member and when he died it was a big responsibility for all of us here."

The sheer magnitude of the responsibility and its implications will strike Williams and his team members once the case gets heated up. In the meantime Williams is maintaining a stoic silence aware of the results any comment of his might produce. He realises that the media can turn the whole case into a spectacle and refuses to comment on it. He said, "This is not good for Formula One or the individuals concerned. It's a very important and serious case. He (Senna) was an internationally famous man. Yes, I'm worried about it."

Patrick Head, the team's technical director was however disturbed by the challenges of preparing for a new season, while facing homicide charges. He said, "The charge is very serious, it's a criminal case, and we have to defend ourselves to the maximum. It is something I do not want on my record. We have to persuade the judge that it is not an







appropriate charge. It is not an ideal situation continuing to work with the trial going on. The only way to deal with it is to put it in compartments and deal with whatever you are doing at that time."

Head is still waiting for permission to have a look at the wreckage of the car. He had wanted to see the debris, which was in the custody of Italian authorities, for three years now, but without luck. Head believes that the steering column failure was not the cause of the accident. Head maintained, "I think there is quite a bit on the car itself that could help support our view."

In spite of the possible guilty verdict looming large, there are certain pieces of evidence that absolves them of the crime of manslaughter. For instance, a photograph taken seconds before the

They say that the man seldom laughs, but with singer Mick Jagger in attendance Williams makes an expection

crash, by a French racing photographer Paul-Henri Cahier show that there was debris on the track. A crash involving a Benetton and a Lotus car had occurred before Senna'a fatal accident and this photograph shows what appeared to be bodywork with Benetton colours sent flying either by impact or by being caught in a slipstream.

The debris strewn on the track could have caused the accident even if Senna did not actually run over it. The ace driver's tyre pressure was low at that point and he probably tried to avoid the debris and hit a bump that he would have normally bypassed. The camers behind the driver suddenly showed his head leaning

towards the left, a move that has left observers puzzled.

Driver negligence is another factor being touted by experts. Even though Senna was one of the best in the business, he had not won a single race for Williams and was under constant pressure from Schumacher. With winning an obsession for Senna it might be possible that he took the car and himself a little over the limit, and thus caused the crash.

The case has only just begun. It promises to be as exciting and will be as talked about as the action on the race tracks this year. With appeals and counter appeals it could be years before the case is finally over, and the verdict given. One thing is for sure though, this case could have far-reaching repercussions on the sport of Formula One racing.

Chef Louis Ferretti: had to cater to the need of athletes from 197 nations

BY ED HULA

HE biggest-ever Olympic Games meant the biggest-ever appetite when the time came for the world's athletes to sit down to breakfast, lunch or dinner (or in-between snacks) at the Olympic Village in Atlanta. Nearly 10,000 athletes had carte blanche dining privileges during their stay in the Village —and coming from 197 different nations, they brought the varied tastes of the world. quite a challenge for the cooks in the kitchen!

A big favourite with the athletes was the food from Olympic sponsor McDonald's. Restaurants were set up at spots throughout the Village to satisfy the universal appetite for the American hamburgers, fries and Coke. But an athlete cannot live on hamburgers alone. Most of the food cooked and eaten in the Olympic Village came from a mammoth

Athletes from Vanuatu in the Village dining hall



FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

The food which was served for the 10,000 athletes at the Atlanta Olympic Games had to cater to varied tastes. And that was quite a challenge for the chefs

kitchen and was served in a dining hall referred to as "the world's biggest". It was operated by the Aramark Corporation, a world-wide catering company. Aramark's experience was one of the main reasons why it was picked by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games to take on the job of managing the main dining operations for the Olympic Village.

Working for nearly two years before the Games, Aramark created a menu of 550 items. A menu of that size allowed chefs to serve food that appealed to the many tastes and demands of the athletes. Along with American and European cuisine, Aramark served miso soup and rice dishes that appealed to the Japanese. Vegetarian dishes were offered at every meal. Two tons of Kim Chi, the pungent pickled salad of Korea, were

served — even at breakfast. And for athletes who followed religious customs, Aramark prepared Halal and Kosher food.

The favourites? "Beef steak," said Louis Ferretti, the senior executive chef of Aramark. He said, "six thousand a day were served, offered at every meal." Chef Ferretti said that veal was another popular entree: his cooks prepared 40,000 veal cutlets before the Games ended.

The complaints? There were some from the Chinese athletes, who said they felt left out of the world cuisine offered in the Village kitchen. Ferretti said that he took action when he heard about the problem, meeting with China's chef-de-mission. The result was the addition of eight Shzechuan-style dishes to the menu along with a stir-fry dish using tofu.

Any surprises for Ferretti, a veteran of half a dozen Olympic kitchens? "The taste for fruit," he said. The estimates before the Games predicted the athletes would eat five to six pieces of fruit a day, based on the experience of past Games. But Olympic records are made to be broken, and the one for fruit was no exception. Ferretti reported the demand of fresh fruit approached eight to ten pieces per athlete, per day. Bananas were the favourite, but Ferretti was still amazed at the way his Olympic Village guests gobbled down melons: 2,500 of them a day!

COURTESY OLYMPIC REVIEW

Only on These cars ride only on MRF RADIALS



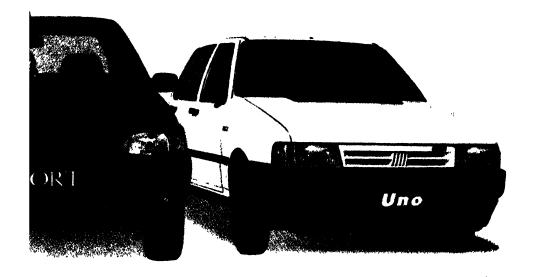
OPEL ASTRA

FORD

When riding on Indian roads, Opel Astra, Ford Escort and Fiat Uno ride only on MRF Radials — world class radials with a unique tread pattern and a broader base. Not surprising that MRF Radial is India's answer to world class cars.



MRF ...



ESCORT

Fiat Uno

MRF RADIAL

India's answer to world-class cars

Lintas MDS MRF MRG 2

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, PERTH

SK any West Indian cricket fan these days who their batting prodigy is, and their answer will not be Brian Lara, or Jimmy Adams or Carl Hooper. You can bet your horse that they will opt for a certain Shivnarine Chanderpaul. And it's not surprising. For if you were to pick out one batsman (other than Lara of course) who has managed to provide some consistency to the post-Viv Richards,

One of the most elegant left-handed batsman in cricket today, Chanderpaul does improvise when the situation demands

A TOUCH OF CLASS!

He might not have scored a century in Test cricket yet, but SHIVNARINE CHANDERPAUL is already being considered a batting sensation in West Indian cricket



Caribbean middle order, it is this diminutive and fidgety 22-year-old left-handed batsman who occasionally bowls right-arm-leg-spin. As introverted as he appears to outsiders, to those within the West Indies camp this dexterous young man is known as "Tigerpaul". While he's still not likely to jump up in a night club and belt out a karaoke number, he's cerainly matured from the shy youth of his Test debut in 1994.

The 'Tiger' nick-name was bestowed upon him after Chanderpaul startled everyone in the dressing room by snapping at towering teammate Curtly Ambrose early on the tour to Australia. He was







the bantamweight fighting six divisions out of his league, yet as Chanderpaul's flashing blade has demonstrated, you don't need to be built like Sylvestor Stallone to pack a punch.

All over the world, fans watching the West Indians batting, eagerly anticipate the fireworks from the blade of West Indies' most famous left hander. And usually if they don't get it from the man called Lara, chances are they will get it from another young batsman who seems set for a long career in the middle order.

In an age when batting records stumble like nine pins, this sweet

Docile off the pitch, and aggressive on it. That's Shivnarine Chanderpaul for you!

timer of the ball surprisingly is still looking for his first Test century but Chanderpaul can sometimes be a revelation, for even though he is known for nudging and defending, he can also pull, drive and cut flowingly. That's because in spite of his quiet and calm demeanour, Chanderpaul has 'The Eye of the Tiger'. Unnerved as he still seems by interviewers and his public profile, Chanderpaul has at last sealed a permanent place in the West Indies side after playing temporary roles over the last five tours.



What has made the difference for this West Indian with a conservative Indian heritage?"Confidence is one thing," says the quiet-spoken figure, who is still more of a boy from a fishing village in Guyana, than a world renowned sports star. "I've always had those shots," he says defending criticism that he is not of the normal West Indian mould of stroke playing batsmen. The inability to convert 50s into hundreds, still remains though. He has racked up 14 scores between 50s and the 80s in his 17 Tests, but the magical three figure still eludes him.

Perhaps the most frustrating inning's of all must have been in the Test against New Zealand in Barbados last year. His father Kemraj, had make the trip to see him bat. He went to stumps at 81, when he would have much rather have continued. He was

Chanderpaul and skipper Walsh exchange notes with Mohammad Azharuddin and Ali Irani

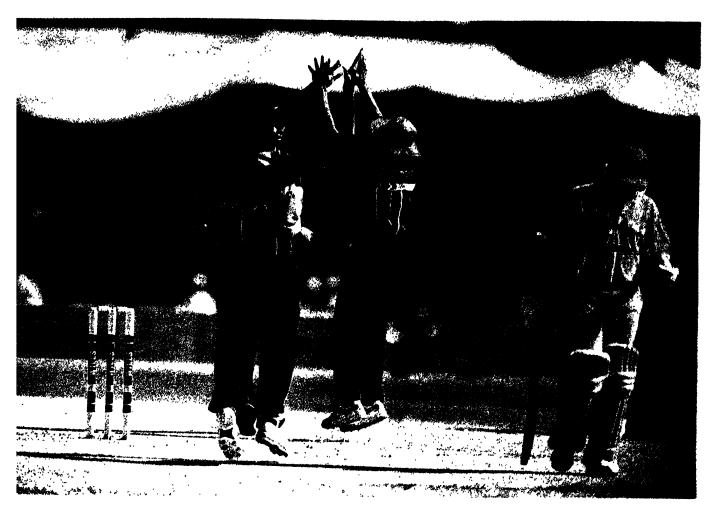
out first-up next morning for 82. "Nerves? I don't know, but I walked the hotel room the whole night. I watched TV, I thought about it.....that was my night" he recalled and then added, "I will get there some day. I'm sure. I know it."

His father, who kept wickets to former West Indian quick Colin Croft in the same village team, has also been Chanderpaul's chief mentor. Size was never a reason to go softly on his son when it came to cricket. As Colin Croft, now a TV commentator advocated, "Everybody in the village knew that this boy would at least play for Guyana. The whole village would come out to bowl at him—men, boys, girls, donkeys, everyone."

Chanderpaul who is now doing Guyana proud in the tense inter-island rivalry stakes, remembers those days well. "My father would tell me about the game and I would practise for hours," he recalled. "From the time I was small I would bat on a concrete strip of about 15 metres against hard, hard balls. They were black balls like those used for hockey. They'd be wet so they would slide off, bounce and fly. The other boys would come and shy away from them. It didn't give you much time, but it was good for your reflexes."

Chanderpaul has also had his own distinctive style. What can be mistaken for nervous fidgeting with his gear after every ball, is really a relaxing ritual.

Watch him the next time Chanderpaul gets out to bat in the middle. He twists and adjusts his left



pad, he sets his helmet, he jiggles his thigh pad, he bangs the back of his right pad with a glove, he shifts his protector, he hitches up his front arm... after every ball it is repeated in variations. And watch him take his guard. He marks it taking the bail off the stumps, and digging his mark on the crease.

"It's a matter of feeling comfortable," he explained. "With the helmet I have to adjust it because it is normally too big for me. That's the reason I wear a headband with it." It's not the only piece of equipment, which does not fit this young man who can be lost from sight in a huddle of autograph-seeking fans.

One reason he believes for his legs cramping regularly at the crease, has been his pads, which he tightens to the point where it can affect his He might have to jump high to give high-fives to his teammates, but Chanderpaul's never low on metivation

circulation. These regular crampings prompted team

physiotherapist-cum-prankster Dennis Waight who presented Chandeapaul with a neatly wrapped gift last Christmas—it contained a box of tissues. The rest of the Windies camp loved it.

And with most obscure in-house jokes, you've got to follow the connections. Tigerpaul ... Paper tiger ... Paperpaul ... Tissuepaper .. get the drift.

Chanderpaul recently returned to Guyana from the recent Australian tour with his status enhanced ... if that is possible. He was a national hero at 17 and appeared on a Guyanese stamp at 20. It was in recognition for batting for more than four hours, besides Lara, during the latter's world record Test innings of 375 in Antigua three years ago.

In fact Lara readily reveals that it was the raw rookie who gave him the settling words late in the innings. 'Don't throw it away;' 'keep it going'

... 'Shiv was really helping me along during the last 30 or 40 runs,' says Lara.

Chanderpaul remembered it well. "Anybody who bats that long and gets that far must be nervous. I did my best to help." If Lara can give anything in return, he would like nothing better than to be at the crease when Chanderpaul approaches his maiden century.

"He's good. When he gets the first, he'll get a few. You believe it," Lara had said.

We believe it. Yes, we really do.

THE 99 CL

So far, 50 cricketers in Test matches have scored 99 runs on 56 occasions. Following are some interesting facts

N 27th January 1997, Greg Blewett of Australia was bowled by Cameroon Cuffy of West Indies at Adelaide during the Australia-West Indies Test series. At that moment. Blewett made exactly 99 runs. It was the 56th instance of a batsman missing an individual hundred by just one run in 1,352 Test matches played up to 31-1-1997.

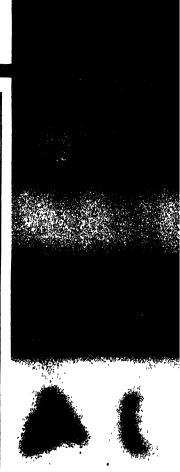
Overall, 50 cricketers have scored 99 on 56 occasions. Out of these 56 occasions, Geoff Boycott of England and Steve Waugh of Australia are the only two batsmen to remain not out on 99.

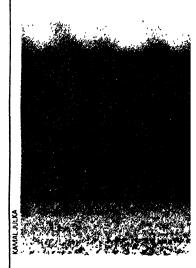
In the 99-club members, there is also one pair of brothers. They are Mark Waugh and Steve Waugh of Australia. Here are some other interesting facts:

- * during the Perth Test of 1979-80, Geoff Boycott created another world record when he carried his bat through a completed innings, to score an unbeaten 99. In the second innings of the same Test, Boycott scored 112 runs to create another world record of scoring 99 and a century (112) in the same Test.
- * Mike Smith, Geoff Boycott, Mike Atherton (all from England), Salim Malik (Pakistan), John Wright (New Zealand) and Richie Richardson (West Indies) are the only six players in Test history to score 99 on two separate occasions.
- * Clem Hill of Australia was the first-ever Test cricketer to be dismissed on 99

- —against England in the second innings of the Melbourne Test in January 1902. He was so unlucky that he scored 98 and 97 in each innings of the very next Test at Adelaide. Thus Hill created the world record of becoming a nervous nineties victim in three successive innings.
- * so far, none of the Sri Lankan batsmen have been dismissed on 99 at the Test level.
- * no player from Australia, South Africa or India has been dismissed on 99 on more than one occasion.
- * Bill Brown and Arthur Morris (both from Australia), Mike Smith (1961-62), Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton (all from England), John Beck and Dipak Patel (both from New Zealand) as well as M.L. Jaisimha (of India) were run out while trying to complete their respective centuries.
- * out of five New Zealanders in this list, four (except Dipak Patel) are left-handers.
- * the slowest 99 has been scored by M.L. Jaisimha (505 minutes) while the fastest 99 was scored by

Richard Hadlee scored the fastest 99 (81 balls)

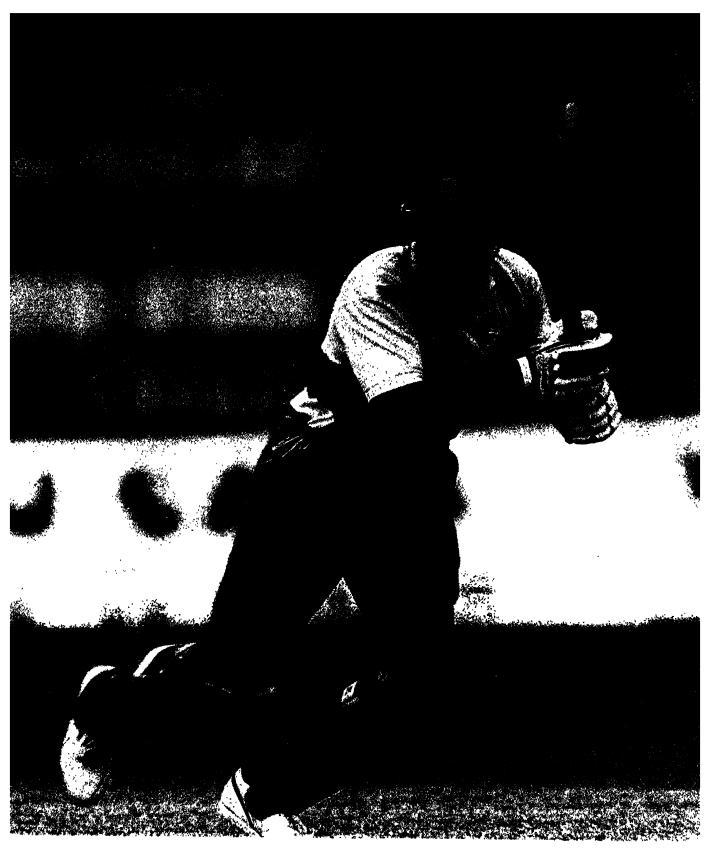




New Zealand's Sir Richard Hadlee (in just 81 balls).

* Ross Edwards (Australia), Eddie Paynter (England), Bob Christiani (West





Navjot Singh Sidhu was declared lbw on 99

Indies) and Navjot Singh Sidhu (India) were the only four players to be declared lbw on 99.

* Australia's Arthur Chipperfield and West Indian Bob Christiani were the only two unlucky players to be dismissed on 99 on their Test debut.

* Bruce Mitchell of South Africa was the only player in Test history to be dismissed on 99 in his last Test.

* Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand was the only cricketer to score 99 while

THE UNLUCKY VICTIMS

Neme	How out?	Versus	Venue	Series
AUSTRALIA (16)	,			
Clem Hill	Ct. fd.	England	Melbourne	1901-02
Charles Macastney	Ct. W.K.	England	Lord's	1912
Arthur Chipperfield	Ct W.K	England	Nottingham	1934
Bill Brown	R.O.	India	Melbourne	1947-48
Keith Miller	B.	England	Adelaide	1950-51
Arthur Morris	R.O. Ct. W.K.	South Africa	Melbourne	1952-53
Colin Mc Donald	Ct. W.K. Ct. fd.	South Africa England	Cape-town Melbourne	1957-58
Bob Cowper Ian Chappell	Ct. Id. Ct. fd.	England India	Calcutta	1965-66 1 96 9-70
Ross Edwards	LBW	England	Lord's	1975
Kım Hughes	Ct. id.	England	Perth	1979-80
Dean Jones	Ct. fd.	New-Zealand	Perth	1989-90
Mark Waugh	Ct. fd.	England	Lord's	1993
Michael Slater	Ct. W.K.	New-Zealand	Perth	1993-94
Steve Waugh	N.O.	England	Perth	1994-95
Greg Blewett	B.	West Indies	Adelaide	1996-97
PAKISTAN (7)				
Magsood Ahmed	St.	India	Lahore	1954-55
Majid Khan	Ct fd.	England	Karachi	1972-73
Mustaq Mohammed	R.O.	England	Karachi	1972-73
aved Miandad	Ct. fd.	India	Bangalore	1983-84
Salim Malik	Ct. fd.	England	Leeds	1987
Salım Malik	Ct fd.	South Africa	Johannesburg	1994-95
Aamir Sohail	B.	Australia	Brisbane	1995-96
N'EST INDIES (6)				
Bob Christiani	LBW	England	Bridgetown	1947-48
Allan Rae	В	New-Zealand	Auckland	1951-52
Rohan Kanhai	R.O.	India	Madras	1958-59
Maurice Poster	B .	India	Port-of-Spain	1970-71
Richie Richardson	В.	India	Port-of-Spain	1988-89
Richie Richardson	Cr. fd.	Australia	Bridgetown	1990-91
ENGLAND (13)				
Herbert Sutcliffe	В	South Africa	Cape Town	1927-28
Eddie Paynter	LBW	Australia	Lord's	1938
Norman Yardley	Ct. fd.	South Africa	Nottingham	1947
Mike Smith	Ct. W.K.	South Africa	Lord's Lahore	1960 1961-62
Mike Smith	R.O	Pakistan Australia	Brisbane	1962-63
Ted Dexter Dennis Amiss	B Ct. fd.	Pakistan	Karachi	1972-73
Geoff Boycott	Ct. W.K.	West Indies	Port-of-Spain	1973-74
Geoff Boycott	N.O.	Australia	Perth	1979-80
Graham Gooch	R.O.	Australia	Melbourne	1979-80
Martyn Moxon	Ct. fd.	New-Zealand	Auckland	1987-88
Mike Atherton	R.O.	Australia	Lord's	1993
Mike Atherton	Ct fd.	South Africa	Lord's	1994
INDIA (5)				
Pankai Rov	C. IA	Augenalia	Delki	1050 40
rankaj koy M.L. Jaisimha	Ct.fd. R.O.	Australia Pakıstan	Delhi Kanpur	1959-60 1960-61
M.L Jaisimna Aiit Wadekar	R.O. Ct. fd	Pakistan Australia	Melbourne	1967-68
Ajit Wadekai Rusi Surti	Ct. fd.	New-Zealand	Auckland	1967-68
Navjot Singh	LBW	Sri Lanka	Bangalore	1994
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		W		
NEW-ZEALAND (5) John Beck	B.C	South Africa	Cana Taura	1052 54
Jonn Beck Richard Hadlee	R.O, Ct. W K.		Cape Town Christchurch	1953-54 1983-84
kichard Hadiee John Wright	Ct. W.K.	England Australia	Melbourne	1987-88
Jonn wright Dipak Patel	R.O.	England	Christchurch	1991-92
John Wright	St	England	Christchurch	1991-92
	J.		~	
SOUTH AFRICA (3)	O. 43	السياسيين	C	1000 15
Aubrey Faulkner	Ct. fd.	England	Cape Town	1909-10
Bruce Mitchell	Ct. W.K.	England	Port Elizabeth	1948-49
Trever Goddard	Ct. fd.	England	The Oval	1960
TILLE ATTACK (4)				
ZIMBABWE (1) Allań Campbell	Ct. W.K	Sri Lanka	Harare	1994-95



- Ct. Id.
- (2) Ct. W.K
- Caught by wicketkeeper
- (3) R.O.
- Run Out
- (4) B (5) LBW
- Bowled
- (6) St.
- Leg Before Wicket
- (7) N.O.
- Stumped Not Out



Graham Gooch, a member of the 99 club, started his career with a

- at the same time, he captured 5 wickets in an innings. He achieved this distinction against England at Christchurch in 1983-84
- * Geoil Boycott of Fngland, Mushtaq Mohammad of Pakistan and Pankaj Roy of India are the only three players to score zero and 99 in the same Test
- * Ted Dexter and Norman Yardley (both from England), Mand Khan and Salım Malık (both from Pakistan) and Richie Richardson (West Indies) were the only five players to score 99 as a captain
- * Magsood Ahmed (Pakistan) and John Wright (New Zealand) were the only two batsmen to be dismissed stumped on 99
- * out of 50 players of this 99 club, Graham Gooch of **Fngland and Richie** Richardson of West Indies had started their respective Test careers with a duck In fact, Gooch bagged a "pair



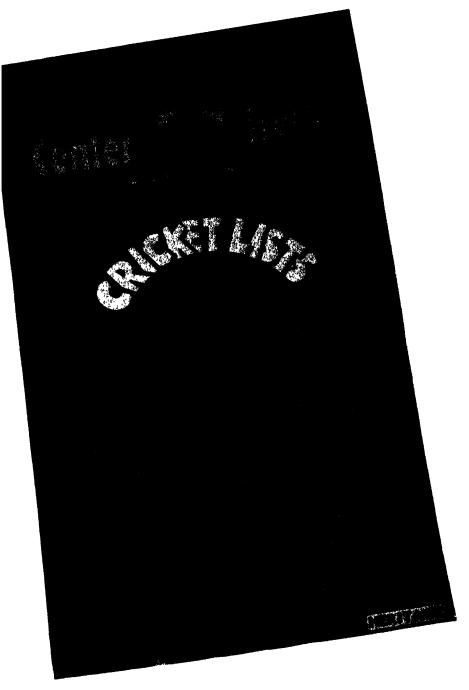
on debut.

- * Rusi Surati (India),
 Norman Yardley
 (England), John Beck
 (New Zealand), Maqsood
 Ahmed (Pakistan) and
 Martyn Moxon (England)
 are those five players in the
 99 club, who never scored
 a century in their entire
 Test career i.e. their highest
 score in Test cricket
- remained 99 only. India's R. Surati was dropped twice on 99 and still couldn't reach three figures.
- * out of 56 occasions of 99, 31 were out caught, 10 were run out, 7 were bowled, 4 were lbw, 2 were stumped and the remaining 2 were unbeaten.
- * Australians are dominating the 99 club with 16 members, followed by 13 from England, 7 from Pakistan, 6 from the West Indies, 5 each from New Zealand and India, 3 from South Africa and one from Zimbabwe.
- * so far Zimbabwe is the only country not to dismiss

- any opposing batsman on 99.
- * England, who so far has played maximum Tests in history, has achieved the distinction of getting rid of the maximum players (19) from various countries on 99.

Compiled by Keki Darabshah

THE WORLD OF BOOKS



TITLE: THE CENTER FRESH BOOK OF CRICKET LISTS AUTHORS: COMPILED AND EDITED BY BARRY O'BRIEN AND MUDAR PATHERYA PUBLISHER: HERITAGE RESOURCES PVT. LTD., CALCUTTA PAGES: 207.

PRICE: Rs.95.00

ROM Kanyakumari to Kashmir, cricket is an all-consuming passion in India. In fact, some social scientists feel that cricket and Hindi films are two of the most potent symbols of unity in our vast sub-continent, with its cross-section of cultures, languages and regions.

Publishers of sports books always look forward to cricket books because only they sell in India. So, befittingly, one of the first and finest sports books to emerge in 1997 is a book of cricket lists, a collection of amusing, interesting and off-beat anecdotes an facts of this most loved game of the sub-continent.

The book compiled by two upwardly mobile young men, who took their first step to stardom by working as sports journalists for Sportsworld. Barry O'Brien is now a TV and Radio presenter and heads 'Heritage Resources Pvt. Ltd'. Mudar, an eminent cricket writer of the 1980 had earlier written the 'Wills Book of Excellence' and now runs 'Trisys', a company that specialises in handling industrial research and image

management for select corporate companies in India.

The foreword is by 'Tiger Pataudi'. During the official book release, Pataudi rightly described both authors as former sports journalists who even though they branched out into other fields, retain their consuming interest in the game. They have collected fascinating trivia for several years which they have compiled to make an interesting book.

The little known facts are about cricket from the aristocratic era of Ranji and W.G. Grace through the controversy of the Bodyline series (1932) into the magical years of Truman and Sobers, to the modern age of the Little Masters Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar. A sample of some of the tit-bits of this era are: "a set of Wisdens owned by W.G. was sold for 80,000 pounds" and "Bradman and Jardine did not exchange a single word during the entire series."

The book is sponsored by Center Fresh, the official chewing gum of the Indian cricket team. Center Fresh is associated with the book, as "it is a quality product", which is dedicated to cricket lovers of all ages and persuasions.

There are 26 intriguing chapters in this book, with some fascinating titles like "Blind Love" and "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly." In the former chapter, we are told that singer Mick Jagger is such an avid cricket fan that he ensures that a video recording of England's performance reaches him within 72 hours. Also, a survey conducted amongst Calcutta college girls, between the ages of 18-21 revealed that Sachin, Jonty Rhodes and Ajay Jadeja are the most popular cricketers the girls would love to spend an evening with. Tendulkar topped the poll with 22 per cent followed by Jonty Rhodes with 13 per cent and Jadeja at 10 per cent.

In the chapter "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly", we are told about the five favourite cricketers of the 1983 Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Sir William Golding. They are: Jack Hobbs, Jim Laker, Frank Woolley, Kapil Dev and Ian Botham.

For cricket literature lovers, the best section are the 10 immortal lines from Neville Cardus, such as "A snick by a Jack Hobbs is a sort of disturbance of cosmic orderliness." The section on dream teams and hobbies, and the favourite food and drink of renowned cricketers is also interesting reading. It is a light-hearted, well compiled book, at a throwaway price and a must for all cricket lovers.

Novy Kapadia



TITLE: LEANDER (PORTRAIT OF A NEVER SAY DIE INDIAN) AUTHOR: GAUTAM BHATTACHARYYA PUBLISHER: FOURTH ESTATE PUBLICATIONS PAGES: 120 PRICE: Rs.50.00

PORTS journalist Gautam
Bhattacharya has written an
interesting book on Leander
Paes. It gives you a picture of
Leander's beginnings; how he chose
tennis as the sport to excel in; the
decision to go into BAT; the decision
to later opt out of it; his experiences on
the ATP circuit; his Davis Cup

triumphs and finally, the great Atlanta Olympic performance. Added to that, there are first person accounts by Leander's father, Dr. Vece Paes, his mother Jennifer, and the current Davis Cup captain Jaideep Mukherjea.

All in all, the book gives a thumb-nail sketch of the life and times of Leander Paes. Gautam Bhattacharyya is one of a very small group of sports journalists who have ended up writing books. Most of us seem content to write reports and articles and leave it at that.

However, two drawbacks have hampered Gautam Bhattacharyya's effort. For one, as he mentioned in the Foreword, he was given very little time to write the book. To quote Bhattacharya: "The publishers set a deadline that would put even the editor of a monthly magazine to shame." If Bhattacharyya had been given more time, he could have delved a little more deeper into the subject. But for the short time that he was given, he has done a remarkably good job.

The second drawback has been that the publishers have let him down severely when it came to proof-reading. I spotted close to a hundred errors! That is an unpardonable sin. The author puts in so much of effort to meet the publisher's deadline and then the latter, through some sloppy editing, allows so many mistakes to appear in the text. The articles 'the' and 'a' are missing in several sentences.

Fourth Estate Publications is an upcoming group from the Serampore district in West Bengal. In the Calcutta Book Fair, I saw that they had already bought out a book on Sourav Ganguly, apart from the Leander Paes book and a number of Bengali publications. I wonder now, in the devastating fire that destroyed the Fair, whether they will have the financial resources to start afresh once again.

Meanwhile, Gautam Bhattacharya, who works in 'The Economic Times' in Calcutta might feel inspired enough to start work on his second book.

Shevin Sebastian

FROM ANDY O' BRIEN, PERTH

driver alive, but he has come to realise that even he can come to grief in this most dangerous of sports. Yes, even Michael Schumacher knows that he is mortal. He even knows now that he may even die on a race track. At least that's the opinion one gets after reading the new biography on the dynamic champion; Formula To Success.

Things have changed. The sense of invincibility that was born in his early go-karting days has disappeared. He has even talked about quitting the sport he loves so much.

Three horrific accidents have helped in changing Schumacher's outlook forever. He is no longer brash, but circumspect. He is no longer fearless, but cautious. He is fast, but he is not reckless any more.

In a little more than four years as a Grand Prix driver, Schumacher has confirmed his potential as one of the greats, the natural successor to Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna. From his opening races for Formula One, when he qualified seventh for Jordan Ford at Spa and finished fifth for Benetton Ford at Monza, observers declared the arrival of a rare talent.

The best drivers in the world have what the experts call "the feel" for the car. Schumacher was initially carried along not just by "the feel", but also by an unstoppable momentum. Out of the pleasures that came from his early racing, was the realisation that he could drive a car faster than most. The momentum was self-generating.

"You have to have the senses in your whole body, that come up to your brain, and then in the end, you have to transfer the information to the steering wheel," Schumacher said. "It is how you do this that is the difference between those who are sensitive, those who have more

Michael Schumacher is the most respected and feared driver on the circuit now, but even he's come to terms with the danger his sport entails

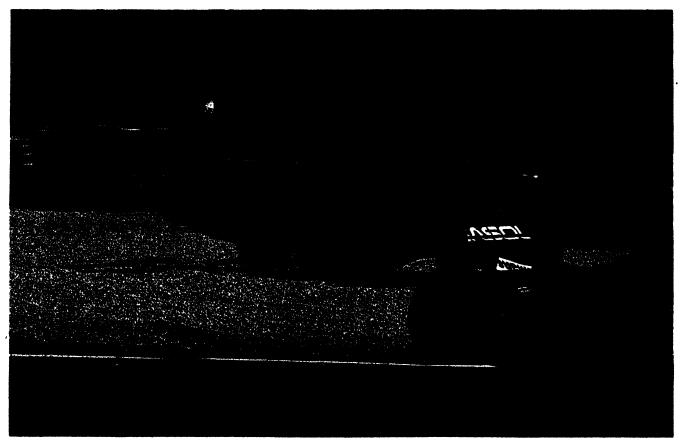


REALITY DAWNS!

Ace driver MICHAEL SCHUMACHER has finally come to terms with his profession. He has come to realise the dangers that lurk in each race, and that drivers are mortal after all

landed on the moon, they could not explain it the way perhaps the people were hoping and expecting them to say. It is a little like that with Formula One. All the followers of Formula One, have their excited view of it, so you cannot look at it the way people do from the outside. It is like when you dream of a fantastic car and then, when you drive it, you get used to it. And then it's not such a great mystery or wonder to you anymore."

But those were the heady days. He celebrated his first anniversary in Formula One with his maiden victory. In 1994 he became Germany's first F1 world champion, and the following season amassed a record-equalling nine race wins in retaining his title



feeling, and those who are maybe as sensitive but are not able to translate that into their driving. This is something you either have, or you don't". As for what gives him satisfaction doing such a dangerous job, Schumacher had said: "Feeling that I am driving the car to the limit

and at the end winning the race, that is where I get the satisfaction. The important thing is to try and achieve the maximum. You know if you are doing it right and you know if you are doing it, as in my case, better than anyone else in the world. That is the biggest satisfaction. When they

Dangerous....Scenes like these are common in F1 racing and it's amazing as to how drivers survive the close calls

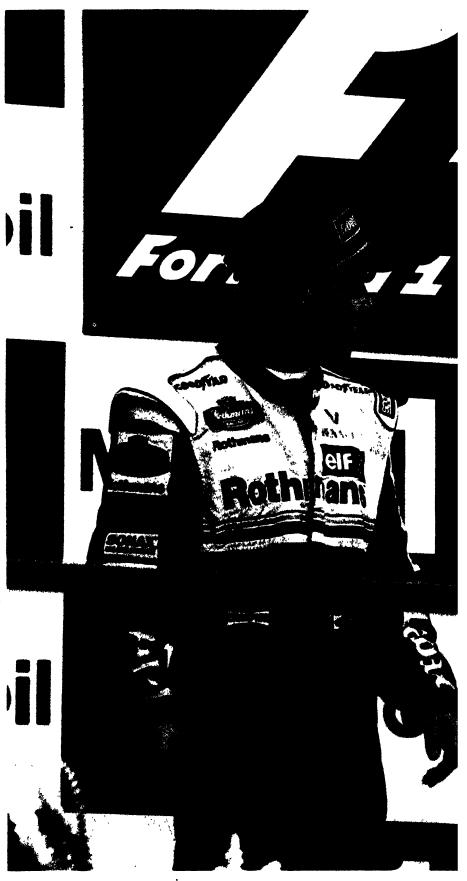
and becoming, at 26, F1's youngest ever double champion. But from those early days, controversy and acrimony have never been far away. The switch from Jordan to Benetton provoked a bitter episode of political and legal wrangling. The first championship was marred by suspicion, accusations of impropriety, disqualification and a suspension; the second title, although attained emphatically, still entailed brushes with authority and Damon Hill, his main rival, with whom he had conflicts on and off the track. And yet these incidents were a little more than irritants compared with the traumatic realisation that Formula One competition could still be fatal.

Schumacher was devastated when young Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberg crashed into a wall during the San Marino Grand Prix practise and was killed, he "cried his eyes out" when Senna, the most famous driver in the world and Schumacher's idol, died 24 hours later after going straight on at a sweeping left-hander and plunged into a wall. And then Schumacher had to be convinced to get back into a racing car after Mika Hakkinen's horrific crash in Adelaide a year later. "I had to think very seriously about my future and whether I wanted to carry on racing or not. It was the first time I had to face such a situation in my sport and I did not know if I would be able to go to the next race as confidently as before. Only after a test at Silverstone, did I feel I could go on," Schumacher admits in the book.

"It was very important for me to find out if I still did have this feeling for racing, or whether I would have gone out and thought, 'this is all too fast for me....look this wall is so close....I can die here....I can die there.' If I had those feelings afterwards—I certainly had them before the Silverstone test—I could not have gone on."

Schumacher is not running scared. He is a fearless brilliant driver....he always has been. "There is a risk in F1. It's dangerous," he admits. "But I love the sport and that is why I try and protect it. I believe in it."

Even with an old lawn-mower engine attached to his pedal cart, young Schumacher flexed his instincts for speed on the





Michael Schumacher with Jacques Villeneuve. They will be the drivers to watch out for in this season

neighbourhood pavements of his hometown of Kerpen-Manheim, near the Austrian border. But after crashing into a lamppost, his father decided that it would be safer for his son to be on an actual race track. So they travelled a few kilometres to a track in Kerpen-Manheim and Schumacher became a member of the go-kart club.

He was four years old then. Ever since then, he thought he was invincible.

"When he had an accident, I thought it will make him stop," his father Rolf said. "It was quite a bad accident and I told him that it was because he had been stupid. I told him never to do it again and made him carry his kart home himself. He did so without a word. It was only when he got home and took off his clothes, that he discovered he had cut his knee and the blood was pouring out. He had it stiched, but he didn't complain, and he carried on." Schumacher admits that the accidents only left physical scars. "We didn't realise I had hurt myself," he says. "The blood and the doctor didn't scare me or make me want to stop. I never scared myself. Even in later years, in more competitive situations, I rarely had accidents. The first time I hurt myself was in Japan, early in my F1 career, in 1991. It was a big crash in practise, but I got back into the car and went half a second quicker after that. As long as I understand accidents, then it's all right for me." Some accidents he couldn't understand. And that disturbed him. After Senna's death, Benetton manager Di Spiers recalls: "He cried his eyes out. He said it was his fault because he pushed Ayrton too hard. which wasn't true of course. But he was heartbroken and we tried to comfort him. It was awful."

The fragile human being had taken over the hardcore professional. And just as Michael Schumacher has "the feel" for the car, he now also feels the touch of mortality.



QUESTIONS

- In case a batsman is dismissed hit wicket, does the bowler get credit for the dismissal?
- What is Pakistan's lowest score against Australia in a Test match?
- Where did the great
 Viv Richards make
 his debut?
- Who was the second
 Pakistani and the
 45th in the world to score a century on debut?
- He was the only cricketer to have died in action after getting hit



Answer to Question No.10

on the head by a cricket ball. Who was he?

In Australia what is commonly referred to as sundries?

Answer to Question No.4



- Who was the first overseas batsman to score three Test centuries at Lords?
- Who holds the record of being the youngest South African cricketer to score a first class century?
- What is the highest Test score by an Indian batsman?
- Who in cricketing folklore was nicknamed 'Iron Gloves'?
- Who was the batsman dismissed by Sir Richard Hadlee to claim his 400th wicket?

ANSWERS

- 1. Yes, the bowler gets credit for the wicket.
- 2. Pakistan scored 62 in Perth.
- 3. Against India at Bangalore in '74-75.
- 4. Javed Miandad.
- 5. George Summers.
- **6.** Extras in Australia are referred to as sundries.
- 7. Dilip Vengsarkar.
- 8. Daryll Cullinan.
- **9.** 236 scored by Sunil Gavaskar against West Indies at Madras.
- 10. Rodney William Marsh.
- 11. Sanjay Manjrekar was the unfortunate victim.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



NEHA AGARWAL, SHREE VISHNU VASTRALAYA, K.D ROAD, KHALARI, DIST: RANCHI BIHAR PIN: 829 205

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.

DRAMA AT THE GARDENS!



Here's the background:
Raman Lamba was batting
in the second innings for
Delhi against Bengal in
the Ranji Trophy Super
League in Calcutta. The
drama began when Lamba
was given out caught by
substitute Safi Ahmed off
the bowling of Utpal
Chatterjee. Lamba was
furious. He hurled a series
of abuses at the umpire
M.S.S.Ranawat.

When he came off the field, Lamba smashed his bat against the dressing room glass panel. Picture shows Surinder Khanna. the manager of the Delhi team inspecting the damage. The Delhi team covered up the matter with this classic explanation from Khanna: "It was just an accident. As Raman reached the dressing room, he slipped on his spikes and his bat hit the glass."

A NEW GAME PLAN NEEDED!

VISWANATHAN ANAND now needs to do some soul searching and has to come up with solutions for his inconsistency, if he is to stay in the race to become the World Champion

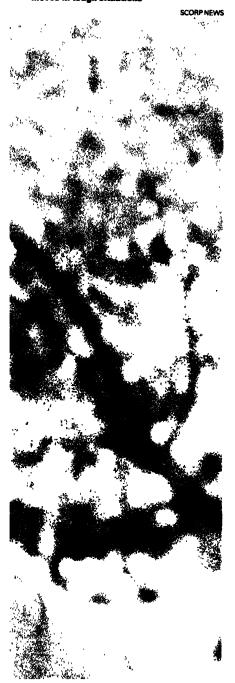


BY DEVANGSHU DUTTA

OR a creative thinker it is easier to think creatively than explain thought processes.

The apple notwithstanding,
Newton could never explain what sparked his inspired insights into celestial mechanics. Similarly, it may come easier to a Tendulkar to cover drive, or a Bubka to pole vault, or

It is time for Anand to introspect on his game and his psyche and come up with the winning moves in touch situations



a Moses to hurdle, than for any of them to outline the keys to their ability to do these things better than us mere mortals. Equally, when the machine stumbles, it may be very difficult for them to understand what is going wrong—there are so many elements they normally take for granted.

For a professional chess player—a sportsman whose USP is his ability to amalgamate creative thinking with the competitive elements of sport, the process of explanation is even more difficult. Success needs little explanation while failure invariably causes deep soul searching. The thing is that all explanations are merely half truths and rationalisations after the fact—no chess player really understands the well from which springs great moves or, monster blunders.

Anand has had two surprising results in his last two meets. At Gran Canaria, in December, he came second, clear of the field, to Kasparov in the strongest tournament of alltime. If he had won their last round encounter he would have cracked first place. That was a six man field comprising the top six rated players in the world. The result was surprising, simply because Anand had played no chess at normal time controls for several months, since July when he shared first place with Kramnik at Dortmund.

Post meet, Anand seemed pretty happy to finish the year on a high at number two in both the PCA and Fide ratings. He finished ahead of expectations in all his 1996 tournaments including a stormy minimatch win against Kasparov in the Intel Grand Prix finals—"Generally I was very satisfied with my performance at Canaria—I equalised easily with black, and won two nice games with white. Against Kramnik (in his only loss), I just made two errors in a row."

He also had an interesting explanation for the eclipse of 46-year-old Karpov who finished joint last at Canaria. "He was playing the same way he did when he won Linares in 1994. The difference is that the others have improved. His play hasn't changed, we are better prepared now."

From there, Anand went into Linares which was marginally weaker with a 12-man field that lacked Karpov from the earlier meet. Here he ought to have been in flowing form with any rustiness ironed out by an earlier tough meet. He started with a nightmarish sequence of two losses in his first four games, went winless till the eighth round, and pulled back to a 50 per cent score only by winning two of his last three games.

Meanwhile Kasparov and Kramnik fought their way through to a dramatic last round duel where the world champion put it across his former second to take first place. Judith Polgar challenged throughout the first phase only being pegged back by a hat=trick of losses at the end. So tough was the competition, no one went unbeaten through the meet. Anand lost to Nikolic and Kasparov lost to Ivanchuk and Kramnik lost to Kasparov.

What happened? Why did Anand suddenly go off the boil? His only explanation was,"I wasn't very happy with my positions and I don't think I made the best of my middlegame opportunities. These things happen." Analysis of the games showed that he was simply playing a couple of levels below his normal strength. He lost a very hard-fought game to Kasparov after overpressing in a good position. He blundered horribly against Nikolic in an equal situation and he frittered away advantages against Ivanchuk and Shirov to drop vital halfpoints. He also had several short draws where he split points early in admittedly equal positions. Most of the time he would have played on in those games looking to convert the odd error.

Could he have been tired? Not likely, with a month's gap between Canaria and Linares. Did his opening preparation let him down? No, for he had excellent positions out of all his openings, the mistakes came later. He is in perfect health and his stamina has never looked to be in question. If his_

Kesperov is still the best, but the youngsters on the circuit are fast catching up

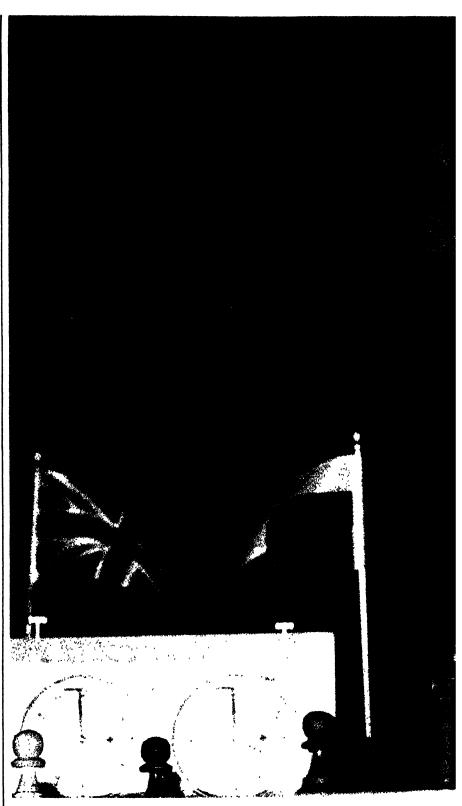
stamina had failed, he would not have played two excellent attacks towards the end when he blitzed Dreev and Polgar.

What seems to have let him down is his creativity in the middlegame. And to a certain extent his sense of danger. Against Kasparov he failed to realise where the tables could be turned. Against Nikolic he played carelessly in a position that was less dead than it appeared. Against Ivanchuk and Shirov, he relaxed when technical perfection was still required. Somewhere along the line he realised he was playing subnormally by his lofty standards, and decided not to drill away at probably drawn positions. Only at the end did he show his usual dynamism.

What is it that normally makes
Anand one of the most creative
players in the world with a stream of
aggressive new ideas backed by near
perfection? Why did the stream dry
up here for no apparent reason? One
doubts that Anand knows the answers
to those two related questions
himself. For that matter, one doubts
whether any chess player knows.
Unremitting study certainly helped
him nurture that creativity, but study
alone does not make any given person,
even one with a 150 IQ, a great
chess player.

Maybe he needs to remember his analysis of Karpov's eclipse at Canaria and see whether his game has similarly fallen prey to stagnation. He will definitely have to look for answers inside himself, to ensure that this does not happen again. The last thing a serious championship candidate, and Anand is still hot favourite for the next challenge, can afford is inconsistency. One-on-one matchplay demands consistency even more than tournament praxis.

The net effect of these two meets is to once again confirm that Kasparov at 34, is still better than the rest,



though only by inches. He won both meets on the basis of a vital last round match rather than running away with them easily. Anand, on the basis of his 1996 results must still be considered a shade ahead of Kramnik, but the

22-year-old is fast catching up, and so is 21- year-old Veselin Topalev. The 27-year-old Indian's major edge lies in the fact that both the youngsters have nervous temperaments that have often let them down at vital moments



in matchplay and world title qualifiers. Neither is yet sufficiently mature as a human being to cover up those frailties.

Fide has announced that the unified world title cycle would be

conducted every two years. But Anand doesn't expect things to start moving before 1998 as the world federation has plenty of problems to sort out—not least the lack of good marketing and a concerted search for sponsorship. By then, Kramnik and Topalov may have found their own individual answers to their temperamental problems. Anand cannot hope to beat them by staying in one place.

LOOKING UP!

ith changes in its organisational structure and with a promise of more prize money, the Goodricke International chess tournament could take Indian chess on a new path

T certainly was a move in the right direction, and it came at a time when the game needed it most. The eighth edition of the Goodricke International Open chess meet that concluded in Calcutta saw a rise in popularity and also gave the aspiring chess players of India to showcase their talent. Corporate concerns. and the title sponsor, the Goodricke Group, joined hands with the Alekhine Chess Club in organising this tournament. The meet was formally inaugurated by the football dynamo Chima Okerie, who has now turned up for East Bengal.

Contending for the title were 68 players from 18 nations. In the fray were 20 International Masters and 12 Grandmasters including GM Dibyendu Barua. Other notable entrants included the Under-Ten World Champion, P. Harikrishna of Andhra Pradesh, the Commonwealth champion Poornaswamy Mithrakant, National 'A' champion, Tiruchi Parmeswaran, the title holder in the National Under-25 category,

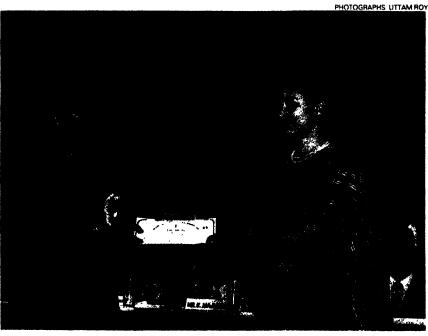
Saheli Dhar receiving a memento after the tournament. She became the third Indian woman to win a WGM norm

Neelotpal Das, runners up of the Asian Subjuniors chess Krishnan Sashikiran, Suryasekhar Ganguly, Saheli Dhar and others. The foreign players included super Grandmasters Joan Enwest (Estonia) and Vadim Zuiaginskey (Russia), defending

champion Alexander Menashev (Uzbekistan), and noted chess columnist Nigel Davies of England. Luminaries of the Bangladesh chess

Harikrishna with his perents. He might still be a mama's boy, but he's already created a name for himself





arena, IMs Ziaur Rahman and Reefat Bin Sattar also clashed their swords with the elite band.

The International Master (IM) title is the first step taken by a chess player towards recognition in the international chess circuit. Following this is the giant leap for the Grandmaster (GM) title. A player has to achieve three norms from thirty Swiss league games, or 24 round robin and Swiss league games, to be awarded the Master title. Keeping in mind the norm aspirants of India, the Organising Secretary of the tournament committee, Soumen Mazumder, had given a dramatic face lift to the competition this year. Though the tournament has always been an 'open' meet, this year, it took a 'semi-open, semi-invitational' form. Unlike the Swiss league format, where any number of entrants is welcome in view of the lump sum entry fee involved, the organisers tried their best to ensure that players with comparitively low Elo ratings were barred entry. The format was tailor made for the benefit of the "better players" in this subcontinent.

This decision of the organisers turned out to be perfect. Five players secured honourable norms from this meet. Fuldashev Saidali of Uzbekistan got a GM norm to his credit. WFM Saheli Dhar got a WGM norm, and became the third Indian woman after Bhagyashree Sathe Thipsay and Vijaylakshmi Subbaraman to achieve this feat. Shanker Roy of Bengal got his second IM norm. After Neeraj Mishra, and Dibyendu Barua in the early 80s, this is the first time, that a lad from West Bengal is gunning for the IM title. G.B. Prakash also made his second IM norm. However, the tournament proved very unfortunate for former National 'A' champion titleholder, Pravin Thipsay, who missed his norm by just half a point. Survasekhar Ganguly, Neelotpal Das, Sashikiran, Pravin Thipsay, and Saheli Dhar managed to snake their way up the world FIDE rankings.

The games that lingered in memory after the meet got over was played by none other than Krishnan Sashikiran



Russian Grandmaster Vadim Zuiaginshev was the ultimate winner of the Goodricke Chess Championship

of Tamil Nadu. This sixteen-year-old who was the youngest IM norm holder unleashed a stunning display of mettle and tactics to defeat two Grandmaters and secured his second IM norm from nine scintillating games. Grandmaster Vidmanta Malisauskas of Lithuania and national champion T. N. Parmeswaran fell prev to the Indian chess queen Saheli Dhar of West Bengal. All Suryasekhar Ganguly managed to do in the tournament was defeat a grandmaster, but what surprised everyone was the insipid performance of GM Dibyendu Barua. Following his recent 'had patch' he could not live up to expectations, and barely managed to secure a place in the top fifteen.

The tournament, however had a fairy tale ending for twenty-year-old

Vadim Zuiaginshev of Russia who took the title with 8 points. Joan Enmest of Estonia was the runner up, while defending champion Alexander Menashev came third. The points were tied, and the places were secured on the virtue of better 'progressive scores'. They all got fifty thousand rupees as prize money. India's Pravin Thipsay who came 14 secured a purse of twenty-six thousand rupees, while Saheli Dhar was adjudged the best woman participant.

In view of the increasing popularity of the meet, the Goodricke Group has decided to increase the prize fund to 3.5 lakhs from the coming editions of the meet. The first prize could then be 1 lakh rupees and this will certainly augur well for aspirants who never thought of chess as a money spinning game, and will go a long way in popularising the game of chess.

Sudarshana Banerjee



HOT ROD!

HE whole of basketball crazy America held its collective breath during a League match of the 'Chicago Bulls'. The 6' 8" Dennis Rodman, aged 35, one of their most brilliant defenders, while chasing a ball which went out of court, could not control his momentum and fell over a court-side photographer. What followed sent shock waves around the world.

Instead of getting up and apologising, Rodman kicked the photographer in the groin. The result: The NBA suspended him for 11 games; that suspension cost him \$ one million in appearance money of a reported \$ nine million annual salary. He also had to pay \$200,000 to the photographer in an out-of court settlement; then Rodman self-imposed a penalty of playing the next 11 games for AIDS charities for \$70,000 a game.

Dennis Rödman has been one of the most eccentric players of the NBA League. He is a famous cross dresser. When his autobiography was released, he arrived at book signing sessions in a wedding gown; he wears two thick gold earrings. He has tattoos all over his body. And he has dyed his hair in all sorts of colours. Apart from all this, he had a famous, torrid affair with Madonna. The pop star, on inviting Rodman home, asked minutes after his entrance when they were going to go to bed. Rodman details the affair in juicy detail in his book.

In the League he has been respected as a player. He has brilliant rebounding skills and selfless defensive play, which along with Michael Jordan's genius, enabled the 'Chicago Bulls' to win their fourth straight Championship title last year. But his behaviour off the court has grabbed headlines around the world.

This is a far cry from the life that he led as a young man. At 20, Rodman was an airport janitor and a self-confessed petty thief. His gifts as a player flowered late but the nation and later the world, because of satellite TV, took him to heart. But his eccentricities also worried fans.

In defence of himself, Rodman says, "If you don't want to stick behind me, don't say nothing about me at all. I just have one goal, that's the road to the championship. People

will say, 'He's all right.' But if I do anything, it's 'Screw him, get him out of here, he's evil, he's a bomb ready to explode'."

His fellow players, like the fans, do not have a very charitable view of him. Says basketball legend, Michael Jordan, "I've known Dennis for a long time. And he's actually a good person. But his act has grown stale. When you can be on the edge and keep it right there then that's all right but when you start kicking the everyday man, the people who love you and are feeding you, then you're in trouble."

Jordan's comments came when a group of NBA legends had gathered around in Cleveland to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NBA. Other players were equally critical. Rodman's response was typically blase: "A few of those guys said, 'Kick his butt out'; they're just bitter because their time has passed."

Chicago teammate Steve Kerr stated, "We're used to Dennis and all the hype that goes along with him. Nothing he could do would shock us any more. Actually, if he turned up to a game in loafers, khaki slacks and a nice Oxford shirt... now that would shock us."

Recently, Rodman while playing in a match against the 'Charlotte Hornets' ran out of court and fell over a photographer. The TV audience around the world again held their collective breath. But Rodman got up and gave a playful pat on the photographer's chest. "It would have been a classic if I kissed him," Rodman stated, "but he probably would have sued me for slobbering all over him."

That's Rodman for you. Always flamboyant, larger than life and with a quote that hits the nail on the head. I end with another example: Rodman appeared in the 'Jay Leno show', wearing a full length split leather skirt and eight inch heels.

A calm Leno asked, "Were you disappointed not to have been selected for the US Olympic Basketball team?"

In response, Rodman stood up, put his hands on his hips and in a falsetto voice said. "Would you pick me to represent your country?"

DENNIS
RODMAN,
one of the star
players of the
'Chicago
Bulls', is also
the most
eccentric and
controversial
basketball
players ever

THE DOMINANC

INDONESIA has shown by their sweep of the titles at the Indian Open Grand Prix that they are the premier power in world badminton today

BY NOLLY KAPADIA

NDONESIA bestrides the badminton world like a mighty colossus. That was evident at the recent Air India sponsored, Indian Open Grand Prix badminton tournament. They won all five titles at stake, despite the absence of several stars.

Joko Suprianto and Alan Budi Kusuma (who has just got married to former World No 1. Susi Susanti) and their leading doubles combination stayed away. The ultimate winner Heriyanto Arbi had missed several weeks of the international circuit due to a niggling calf injury. Another Indonesian star, Ardy Wiranta was compelled to miss the international circuit for nearly six months, due to a bout of hepatitis. This had resulted in his world ranking slipping to 31, not an apt reflection of his actual potential.

However, the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, is a happy hunting ground for Indonesian badminton. At the '95 Wills World Cup, the mighty Indonesians figured in four of the five finals and seven of their thirteen-member contingent won medals. Like the Chinese in table tennis and the West Indies in the 1980s in cricket, Indonesia's supremacy in badminton is

Heriyanto Arbi, despite being off the circuit for a few months, was still good enough to win the title



E CONTINUES

overwhelming and awesome to behold. They won all five titles at stake. In the men's doubles, an unknown, new pairing of Ade Lucas and Ade Sutrisna upset their top seeded compatriots Hadi Sugianto and Aras Razak, to win the \$8500 as prize money.

Both Arbi and Wiranta used the Grand Prix tournament to test their fitness levels. Heriyanto had not a major tournament since the '95 Hong Kong Open. Yet, Heriyanto won the men's singles title, upsetting top seed and Olympic champion Poul-Eric Hoyer Larsen in three games in the semi-finals and outclassing India's rising star Pullela Gopi Chand in the final, with an exhilarating display of court coverage, speed and power.

Sporting an 'East India Company' t-shirt, which caused quite a few raised eye-brows (was Heriyanto trying to gain psychological ascendency by re-opening old wounds and reminding India of their colonial legacy?), Heriyanto in halting English said, "The title win was good for my confidence and puts me in good condition for the All England title and world championships in March. I am happy with my fitness and form."

In the absence of Susanti, 20-year-old Cindana Hartono (no relation to the legendary Rudi Hartono) mesmerised all opposition on her way to winning the women's singles title. It must be admitted that it was a low profile field of 14 entrants in the women's singles.

As for Indonesian badminton, what are the causes which lead to the churning out of champions with regularity?

Tong Sin Fu, a Chinese coach, born in Macao, who has worked in Indonesia since 1986 says, "The secret of Indonesia's dominance lies in the three tier organisational structure. The first tier is grassroots or class level, followed by the club level and the



ultimate training school for champions is the National Badminton Academy."

When quizzed about their success sometime ago, the worthwhile chief coach Atik Jauhari had ambiguously said, "Talent is born not made but

Paul-Eric Hoyer Larsen of Denmark, the Atlanta Games gold medallist, lost in the semi finals to Heriyanto

champions are born and made."By this, he meant that successful marketing and adequate sponsorship

An Overview

The lack of many world class players and the poor crowds was a cause for concern

THE calibre of players that participated in the Indian Open was a slight cause for concern. In fact, Heriyanto Arbi

candidly admitted, "Except for Larsen, Wiran ta and myself, there were no world class players." The gangling Dane, Paul-Eric Hoyer-Larsen also said, "It's a major four star-rated tournament with a good prize money of \$1,25,000 but there should have been more players here."

Larsen was, however, quite encouraging and felt the quality of entries in next year's Indian Open would improve. He said that the IBF intended to organise the circuit so that neighbouring countries organise their grand prix tournaments in successive weeks. This would ensure greater and better quality participation.

V. K. Verma, vice president of the Badminton Association of India who works for the sponsors 'Air India' said, "We hope to upgrade the tournament next year

Gopi Chand performed very creditably by reaching the final. He has a bright future ahead of him



and make it a five-star rated championship." However, Verma and the organisers should beware of the pitfalls. They should try and ensure that the level of participation improves. Otherwise, like the Nehru international football tournament and the Indira Gandhi international men's hockey tournament, this Grand Prix badminton event could start with a bang and slide into a whimper. It should not become a tournament for rehabilitating injured stars or just blooding new talent.

Also, the lack of crowds was a major worry. Despite it being free, the crowds stayed away. No

wonder this led to an acerbic reaction by the veteran president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Mr. Fazil Ahmed: "We will make the Indian Open an annual event, but it may not be in Delhi."

The Indian players were delighted with the start of the Indian Open. Gopi Chand said, "It will help improve our ranking and give us greater exposure." Prior to the commencement of the Indian Open, Gopi Chand was ranked 190 but his ranking has now improved. Neelima Chowdhury, playing her first senior international tournament, was elated by her triumph over Hong Kong's Chin Ng, and said, "We want this tournament to continue, so that , our confidence level improves by taking on top class players."

Aparna Popat, the junior world runner-up says it is expensive to travel and train abroad and so more Grand Prix and satellite tournaments (a new innovation) in India would help the players. So, for the sake of India's promising crop of players, it is hoped that the Indian Open is shifted to a city where the game draws large crowds, so that the sponsors do not back out from staging the tournament.

For years, Indian badminton was bereft of proper training programmes. Current national champion Pullela Gopi Chand took to the sport more by accident than design. As a 12-year old, he visited the Lal Bahadur Shastri stadium at Hyderabad which was near his house and got 'hooked' to the game. Since he lived close by, he was trained by Syed Mohammed Arif and by the age of 19, became a junior national champion.

However as Gopi Chand admits, "The start of the Bharat Petroleum, Prakash Padukone Academy (BPLPP) at Bangalore has done wonders for Indian players. All of us who train there under the guidance of Prakash have benefited."

Gopi Chand got the biggest pay-cheque of his career when he pocketed \$5,000 for finishing runners-up in the Indian Open tournament. He said, "My fitness level and selection of strokes has greatly improved by sparring with Prakash. I have also improved my powers of concentration."

Gopi Chand, the only Indian player with a leap-smash, has trained at Bangalore for nearly a year and his improvement is visible. He resembles Prakash with his deft movement, However, Gopi Chand needs to improve his net-play. The Prakash Padukone Academy and the Indian Open tournament are a step in the right direction for Indian badminton. There were also rumours that the geriatric Fazil Ahmed may step down and Prakash, the players' choice, could take over as president of the BAI.

Fazil Ahmed has been made President-Emeritus, President for Life for his services to the game. He deserves the honour but now is the time for fresh blood to inject new promotional ideas and market this fast-paced sport successfully into the next century.

Novy Kapadia

of the game in Indonesia provided the facilities for development of talent.

Very cleverly, Indonesia has not concentrated the training of talent in just one or a few centres. It is a country of 3,000 islands and as Tong Sin Fu said, "The geographical situation would make it futile to have a centralised coaching centre." Instead, there are 29 training centres in the 27 provinces. Each coaching camp can accommodate 250 wards." Tong feels this ensures against regional imbalances and the neglect of talent in one area at the cost of another.

Each centre is equipped with approximately 20 Hova Courts. The cost of each Hova Court is approximately \$80,000-100,000. At Jakarta alone, there are 21 international calibre courts available for practice.

Mere lip service is not paid to tapping talent at a young age.

Talent-scouting in Indonesia begins at the age of eight years. They feel it is the right age to take to the game seriously. There are separate domestic circuits for children under 15 and under 18 years of age. Once identified as a potential talent, the player's progress is closely monitored and they receive special coaching at training centres in their respective provinces.

The second tier or club-level helps to mould a player and provides valuable big-match experience. There are numerous clubs spread across the country. In Jakarta alone, there are about 180 clubs, patronised by both the private organisations and the government. Tong stresses that, "These clubs serve a twin purpose. Apart from ensuring monetary advancement they provide a competitive edge as inter-club matches are played on a weekly basis."

The elite group train at the National Badminton Academy. The emphasis is on improving the flexibility, power and endurance of the players. Young players who join the elite group are frequently sent abroad to instil a sense of confidence to perform at the international level. Such a comprehensive programme enables Indonesia to dominate badminton.



BANG ON TARGET!



ndia's ace shooter JASPAL RANA finally tied the knot



(Clockwise from Top left):
Jaspal Rana with his nephew
Deepak on horseback, as the
baraat approaches the wedding
venue

Jaspal about to exchange garlands with his wife Rina

Jaspel wed Rina Bisht on Feb 13. They had been engaged last year

freewheeling

LEDGING. It's back in the news again. The West Indies tour of Australia ended with Brian Lara accusing the home team of reviving the days when their cricketers were referred to as the "Ugly Aussies". Manager Clive Lloyd signed off from the tour condemning the practice describing it as outside the rules of the game.

Shane Warne reacted by saying that he had all but ended his friendship with Lara in the bitter aftermath to the star batsman's comments and behaviour. "I was friends with Brian, but after the Test series we have nothing to do with him," Warne said when his team landed in Johannesburg for the South Africa tour. Many pundits have predicted that the ongoing series between these two teams could be marred by sledging, the likes of which has never been seen in Test cricket history.

The cricket field has always been a bit like a confessional box—what is said within its confines is best not repeated outside. But thanks to close-up video shots and sound-effects microphones, those of

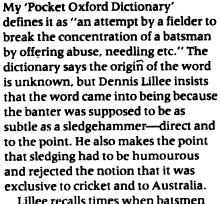
us who have never had the chance of playing top-class cricket are able to get glimpses of what it's really like out there among the flanelled fools.

We know, for instance, what word is selected most frequently by batsmen when LBW decisions are given against them, or by bowlers when their appeals are disallowed. It is the same word you see players mouthing when they miss goals on football fields or miss shots on a tennis court. Why it is always uttered at moments of great disappointment is something that I've never been able to figure out.

But I can't say I've ever been privy to any real sledging. A friend of mine who plays fourth division cricket here in Western Australia (and becomes the star all-rounder of Krishnanagar in West Bengal every time he goes home to visit his mother) got himself into trouble recently when he made a remark from square of the crease. "This bloke's had more edges than a 'Rubik's _Cube," my friend remarked—and was then confronted by the batsman who threatened to dispatch his head to the boundary.

The word sledging is still fairly new.

ARTHUR CARDOZO



Lillee recalls times when batsmen were playing and missing and his slips cordon around Rod Marsh madly pretended to shiver, commenting on how drafty it had become...thanks mainly to the swish and miss of the batsman's blade.

Formidable West Indian fast bowler Joel Garner once told of an incident in which he was bowling to Allan Border who was heard to murmur an oath as he ducked away from a bouncer."What did you say?" Garner enquired. Before Border could reply, one of the close-in fieldsmen chipped in: "He called you a black @#\$&&*!."

Border barely escaped with his life and his wicket as the angry paceman finished the over with a few lethal short-pitched deliveries, bowling with great venom.

"Why did you call me that name?" the still-seething Garner inquired after the over. Border had said nothing of the sort and the fieldsman owed up that he had invented the insult to fire up the bowler.

Things have changed though. Only last month, Australian cricket authorities suspended a player for the first time for racial abuse on the field. Cricket purists ought to be wounded by the fact that their game is establishing a reputation for gamesmanship and bad feelings when some other sports are cleaning up their acts.

Despite my own new-found patriotism, I can't help thinking that Australians have contributed more than their share to the evolution of sledging.

Andy O'Brien, Australia





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A GENERAL & A GENTLEMAN!

Courtney Walsh has led the West Indian team with a quiet efficiency and dignity

28

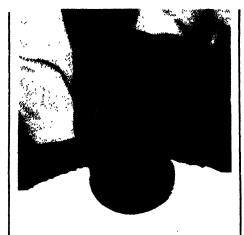
THE FLIPPER MAN

Shane Warne is Australia's man for the crisis situation

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MAC THE MOUTH ROARS!

ohn McEnroe is his usual frank and fearless self







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TEEN WAVE IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TENNIS

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF COURTNEY WALSH BY ATRICK EAGAR. PICTURE OF SHANE WARNE BY KAMAL JULKA

HOW MUCH CRICKET HAVE WE PLAYED?



statistical analysis on the number of matches played in the last one year



INDIA IN TEST CRICKET

(March 1996 - March 1997)

Series	Span	pan Opponent Venue		М	Won	Lost	Drawn
1996	(June-July)	England	England	3	0	1	2
1996	(October)	Australia	India	1	1	0	0
1996	(November-December)	S. Africa	India	3	2	1	0
1996-97	(December-January)	S. Africa	S. Africa	3	0	2	1
1997	(March-)	West Indies	W.I.	1	0	0	1
				11	3	4	4

Till the first Test versus the West Indies at Kingston in the current series.

INDIA IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

(March 1996 — March 1997)

Year	Span	Tournament	Venue	M	Won	Lost	Abnd.	Tie
1996	March	World Cup	India	4	2	2	0	0
1996	April	Singer Cup	Singapore	2	1	1	-	
1996	April	Pepsi Cup	Sharjah	. 5	i	4		
1996	May	vs England	England	3	0	2	1	
1996	September	Singer Cup	Colombo	3	1	2		
1996	September	vs Pakistan	Toronto	5	2	3	-	
1996	Oct-Nov	Titan Cup	Indi a	6	3	3		
1996	December	vs South Africa	India	1	1	0	-	-
1997	Jan-Feb	Standard Bank Cup	S. Africa	8	1	5	1	1
1997	February	vs Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	` 1	0	1.		
		·		38	12	23	2	. 1

OUR SADLY OVER-BOWLED BOWLERS

In Test Cricket (March 1996 - March 1997)

	M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wickets	Avge
Javagai Srınath	9	427 5	104	1306	46	28 39
Venkatesh Prasad	11	417	90	1261	45	28 02
Anıl Kumble	11	579 1	121	1431	43	33 27

In the past 12 months, JAVAGAL SRINATH has bowled a total of 764 2 overs or 4586 balls. Is it any wonder that he is injured now?

	M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
World Cup	4	35 4	2	182	6
Singer Cup	2	17	0	69	4
[Singapore]					
Pepsi Cup	5	49	2	260	5
vs England	3	29	6	98	4
Singer Cup	3	24	2	107	1
[Colombo]					
vs Pakistan	5	43 4	0	188	8
Titan Cup	6	57	3	258	1
vs South Africa	1	10	1	40	2
Standard Bank Cup	8	71 1	4	287	7
vs Zımbabwe	Did no	t play			
	37	336 3	20	1489	38

VENKATESH PRASAD, on the other hand, has fared no better. He has bowled a total of 739.3 overs or 4437 balls

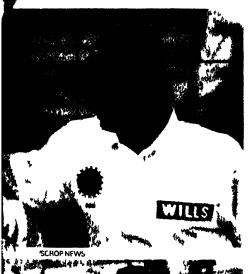
M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	
4	35	1	188	5	
2	17	2	84	1	
3	29	0	157	3	
3	29	4	122	5	
3	22 4	0	142	4	
5	46	3	196	9	
6	57	0	258	11	
1	8	1	27	4	
8	72	6	348	10	
1	6 5	1	35	0	
36	322 3	18	1558	52	

ANIL KUMBLE bowled 921 2 overs or 5528 balls, but since he is a spinner, it may not be as strenuous as the fast bowlers. Still, all of them are bowling far too much. Unless the Board is not careful, burnout will be the ultimate result for these talented players.

M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkt
4	39 4	2	171	8
2	17	2	85	1
5	49	2	212	8
3	26	1	110	3
3	28 3	4	109	6
5	44	2	159	13
6	58	1	238	14
3	9	1	34	1
8	65	0	297	10
1	6	2	18	1
38	342 1	17	1433	65

Compiled by Hariprasad Chattopadhyay







A GENERAL AN A GENTLEMAN

hat's
COURTNEY WALSH for
you. A captain who
leads his team with
a quiet efficiency and
dignity

FROM GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA, WEST INDIES

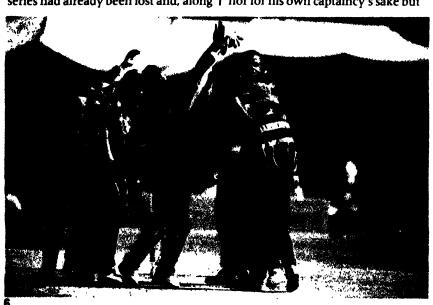
CCORDING to Tony
Cozier, the doyen of West
Indies commentators, the
hurt that Courtney Walsh
felt was obvious in his large,
expressive eyes.

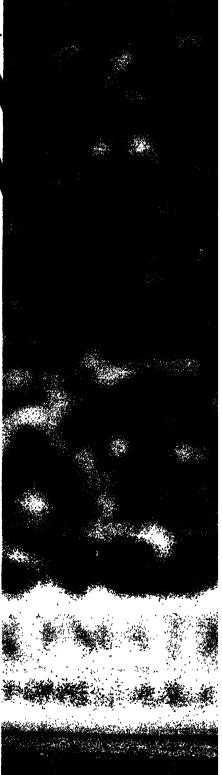
It was the day before the final
Test against Australia in Perth and the
series had already been lost and, along

with it, all hopes of retaining the Frank Worrell Trophy which they had won in 1995. A dozen tape recorders were thrust forward from the huddle of reporters clustered around him.

A frank Walsh didn't mince his words, "We are not as committed as we should have been. We didn't do as well as we could do. The ability and talent is there, but we did not show enough hunger. I don't mind losing after you put everything into it. I can live with that. But when you think there's a lot you could have done and it just didn't happen, then it is disappointing."

'Hunger' seems to be an oft-repeated word now in captain Walsh's dictionary. He is trying his level best to awaken the inner spirits of his young but talented team but so far, he has not been very successful. He was quite candid to Sportsworld in admitting that it was essential that he won the home series against India. This was not for any personal reasons, nor for his own captaincy's sake but





keeping in mind a larger overview:
"The cricket audience in the West
Indies seem to be shifting their
attention to other sports. This is
especially true in Jamaica where

He might not have the most talented side around him, but Watsh has managed to inapira his teammates to give their best



soccer has become quite a craze.
Therefore, you need a win at home to keep them glued to cricket once again."

I venture to ask him as a proud
Jamaican whether he has ever
thought of leading Jamaica in
international cricket and not the West
Indies? He is puzzled. So I give him the

example of soccer where Jamaica is playing quite happily as a nation.

"Oh no," Walsh raises his gaze skywards. "I hope that doesn't happen. Cricket has been the major unifying force throughout the West Indian islands. It should remain like what it is."

There is an essential decency to the

When Walsh is at his menacing best he makes the best batsmen smell the leather

man. He talks with politeness and respect. At the same time, he has an engaging sense of humour. He needed a lot of that humour to keep his balance during the

Courtney Walsh: Figuratively Speaking

In Test Cricket

T	Inns		-		Bells	Runs	Wikts	Avge	B.B.
88	117				18949				

In One-day Internationals

M	inns	No	Runs	Avge	HS	Ct	Balls	Runs	Wikts	Avge	8.8 .
171	64	27	285	7.70	30	25	9043	5802	192	30.21	5/1

Up dated till March 13, 1997

Compiled By Hariprasad Chattopadhyay

controversy-plagued tour of Australia, what with Brian Lara going off the handle quite a few times. Mark Taylor lost his cool and called Lara 'antagonistic'. Clive Lloyd said that the sledging should stop. But Walsh kept his cool.

I asked him about his problems with Brian Lara:

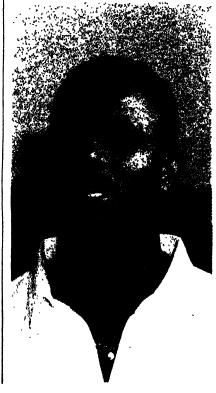
"I've no problems with Brian," Walsh says, "He's a superb cricketer and it's just that things have happened to him all the time. So he's under extra pressure all the time. I don't think he's going to get burdened by all these. He'll handle all that and yet perform."

He is also known on the international circuit for his sporting spirit. For example: ten years ago, he refused to run Pakistan batsman Salim Jaffer out. That was when Walsh was coming in to bowl and he saw that Jaffer had already stepped out of the crease at the non-striker's end, in anticipation of a run. Walsh thought it would be too unsporting to run him out. Instead, he warned Jaffer.

Ten years later, I ask him whether he regrets that incident. After all, that action of his denied his side a victory. "No, I have never regretted it. Nor did the captain tell me a thing."

Incidentally, Walsh had won a President's gold medal for that and possibly treasures it as much as his three hundred plus wickets. It is indeed strange that someone who has been employed to bowl fast for such a long period of time continues to maintain this image of being an

PHOTOGHAPHS KAMAL JULKA



honourable player.

Walsh himself is not surprised, "I play hard and fast within the rules. But I have also played fair all along. Why should there be a contradiction between playing hard and keeping a good image?" That's Courtney Walsh for you. A general and a gentleman.

Walsh is 34 years old. And he is still as fresh as ever. In a recent West Indian newspaper, he was quoted as saying that he feels fresh enough to continue for a few more years. When you look at his bowling run-up, you see that he does it so smoothly: the action is economical, yet fluent. It has probably enabled him to preserve his career. Since he is growing older, I ask the predictable question on retirement:

"I haven't looked down the line as yet. I just take each tour as it comes. I'm feeling good. The body is feeling good. And I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I only hope that Ambrose and myself going doesn't happen simultaneously. We can't go on for ever but we hope that, by the time we go, the gap won't be that big and that we won't be missed as much as people are saying or expecting. "

Cricketers these days are playing far too much. Hence, there has arisen a need by players to form their own players' association to press for their benefits, rather than the respective Boards. But Walsh has been non-commital on the issue: "Ideally, cricketers should play for nine months and rest for the remaining three. But, I wouldn't like to talk. I'm still playing and there is a podium for settling issues like these. I would rather just get on with the game."

It was time for nets and I could see that Walsh wanted to get back to the business that he does best: play cricket. And so I signed off with: "What would you like to be if you were to live again? If you could be any sportsman in any other sport?"

"I shall always be Courtney Walsh with the love for the game I have. I would want to be the same person that I am. I've enjoyed my life, my lifestyle and I've enjoyed my contribution to West Indies cricket."

Cool and dignified: that's Courtney Walsh for

TOUR DIARY

Interesting snippets from the India-West Indies tour

SANTOSH GHOSH

FROM GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA, WEST INDIES

HINGS are happening to
Brian Lara all the time, they
say. And look at the way this
series had begun for him.
Coming in the wake of his verbal
duels with Mark Taylor and Steve
Waugh comes another controversy.

To be fair to Lara, he didn't set the ball rolling for this. It was set by the former 'Rolls Royce' of fast bowlers. Yes, you guessed it right, Michael Holding. A few days before the start of the series, Holding gave an interview to the 'Weekly Gleaner' in Jamaica in which he was asked, how realistic would be Lara's captaincy aspirations?

"No, Brian Lara is not yet ready to captain the West Indies side. Write that in red letters underlined five times. He is not mature enough mentally. He's still flying off the handle when he shouldn't be," Holding replied. And added, "I know he is a good cricket brain, he knows the game and he is a great batsman. But to lead a nation, you have to be more than that."

That Lara didn't take it too kindly was obvious the day the TWI wanted him to be interviewed by Holding. This was the day in which he played the magical knock of 78 and set the Sabina Park on fire. This was Lara batting at his best and even off the field he promptly despatched Holding to the fence, saying he didn't want to talk to that man. The televisionwallahs promptly replaced Holding with a bemused Sunil Gavaskar who, thinking the day's work was over, had changed into his T-shirt. So while he hurriedly went across the ground, our Mike came back the other way.

And you haven't heard enough.



Michael Holding considers Brian Lara too immature to become the captain of the West Indies

Colin Croft, one of the fearsome four quickies wasn't spared either. Croft was told by the Trinidad Radio that they won't require his services for the Port of Spain Test match like previous years. The reason being he was too attacking. The last time he commentated, he didn't mince his words especially when talking about the 'Crown Prince' of the Island. A baffled Croft had no other option but to eat humble pie.

Now what do you call that? Clout? This guy Lara has got that maan.

Cricket-loving Premier

OB HAWKE, John Major,
Nelson Mandela, Paul Keating,

Nawaz Sharif...he has met and charmed them all with his boyish grin and good manners. Alas, Sachin Tendulkar couldn't meet Michael Manley or should we put it the other way around? The most cricket-loving Prime Minister in the world didn't have the opportunity of meeting the 'boy wonder' of cricket.

Manley passed away during the Jamaica Test match. The former socialist premier of the Island has been keeping unwell for the last two years. Yet he kept track of what was happening on the international cricket front. Manley authored two cricket books, of which the 'History Of West Indian Cricket' is of great value to the discerning cricket reader. This is a thoroughly well-researched book with interesting anecdotes and analysis.

Manley pointed out in this book that all talk about the four fast bowlers killing cricket was utterly nonsense. The people who were shouting the maximum had themselves pioneered this strategy. 'Len Hutton played four fast bowlers in 1953-54 against the West Indies. England lost the match. A year later Hutton was to employ the same tactics against Australia at Brisbane. He ended up losing the match and abandoned the tactic. Too quickly perhaps.'

Manley was a great admirer of our own Sunil Gavaskar. He had picked his all-time best world eleven to play Mars. His team: Gavaskar, Jack Hobbs, Don Bradman, George Headley, Viv Richards, Gary Sobers, Bert Oldfield, Michael Holding, Ray Lindwall. Dennis Lillee and Bill O'Reilly.

Manley played a very important role during the Packer crisis in West Indian cricket. He was to help cricket and cricketers tirelessly during the next two decades as well. Perhaps no

engine. In addition to facilitating pick-up and Kick start instantly. Rev up and power your day with superior tow smoke actually improves the performance of your peak power, it eases kick start, betters mileage, lowers maintenance bills. Special additives reduce carbon deposits during combustion leaving spark plugs, exhaust technology. Mitsubishi Low Smoke 27 port, pistons, rings and cylinders clean.

MEMBER ANDREW YULE GROUP



reduces wear and prevents seizure of engine parts it mixes easily with petrol resulting in near perfect combustion. Most 27s claim to really proves the claim. It is the first Indian 2T oil to get the certification of Japan Automobile Standards Organization as a its excellent lubrication performance do this. But Mitsubishi Low Smoke 27 JASO-FC - the world's most exacting performance standard

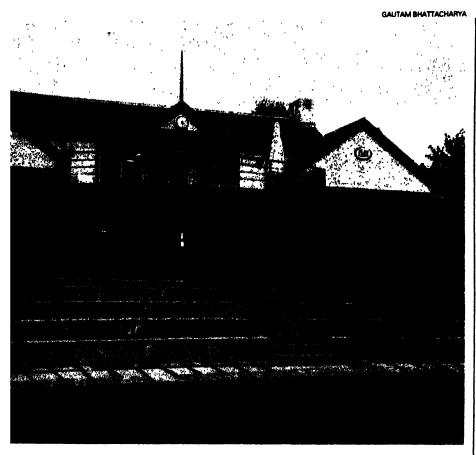




MITSUBISHIOL Low Smoke 27

INDIA'S FIRST JASOFF

Lintes LS2T 01 1927



While George Headley is neglected in the West Indies, Don Bradman has a museum (above) in his name

other premier will ever again author a book on cricket for all you know. But even if someone did, Michael Manley will always be remembered. Well played, sir.

Headley The Great

EORGE HEADLEY is easily the best cricketer they've produced from Jamaica. Even English cricket writers called him the 'Black Bradman'. According to old reports from the Caribbean, they were not pleased with the comparison. They ended up calling Bradman the 'White Headley'.

Do they still call him that? I checked up with Allan Rae who is the former West Indian batsman and the charismatic ex-President of the West Indies Cricket Board. Rae, let me tell you, is Raj Singh Dungarpur's West Indian version. He thinks, eats and

dreams cricket.

Allan Rae learnt his cricket at the feet of Headley. How good was Headley, I venture to ask him even though 10 centuries from 22 Test matches (Av.60.97) does give you a fair idea as to how good he was. "You see, Viv Richards may have hit the ball harder but George was technically much more accomplished. His footwork was of lightning speed and the extent he went to, in eliminating the margin of error was unbelievable! I watched Bradman in his later years in Australia. If you compare that to George's best form, that is before the War, I wouldn't hesitate to put him ahead of Bradman." It would be a misrepresentation of facts, if one wrote that the Jamaican Cricket Association, like most sports bodies all over the world have forgotten their great ambassador. They've not. At the Sabina Park, the main pavilion is named after the great man. They are also erecting his statue outside the pavilion entrance.

Nevertheless they should've done

more. For Headley was a cricketers' cricketer. This correspondent ran from pillar to post looking for the address of the place where he lived. It was nowhere to be found.

Apparently, Headley was survived by his second wife who died a few years back and after that the house has been sold off. Okay. Understood. But what happened to his trophies and mementoes? The bats with which he scored his hundreds and double hundreds? Strangely, no one seems to know. Not even his youngest son.

Now when you think of Bowral, the place where the Don had once lived they have done up the place and made it into a cricket lover's paradise (it's called the Bradman Museum these days), you tend to feel the Don always had Lady Luck smiling on him. He was born, in the right country perhaps.

By the way, no one calls Bradman the 'White Headley' these days. Not even in Jamaica.

Croft The Analyst

EMEMBER Colin Croft? One of the four formidable West Indian quickies. Croft left cricket a bit too early, maybe because of the back injury he sustained.

He went on to become an airline pilot and flew aircrafts. These days he is back to the cricket ground in the new role of a cricket analyst. Croft, by the way, has a phenomenal memory which is much, much better than any cricketer you've ever met.

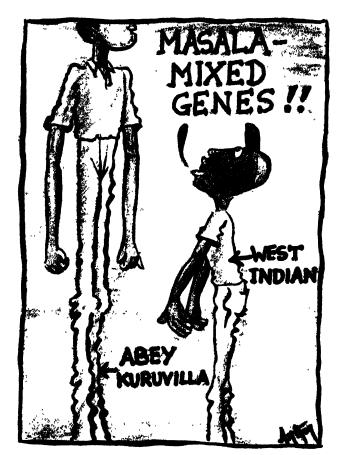
He would even talk about an insignificant Packer cricket match and tell you the exact scores. He would start discussing a fiercely contested Pakistan- West Indies match some 20 years back and tell you exactly how much Asif Iqbal had scored and that Wasim Raja had remained not out on such and such total.

Croft is extremely opinionated but balanced in his view. You could call him a cerebral person. This is a quality not commonly found among the fast bowlers. But more than that, what surprises you is his elephantine memory.

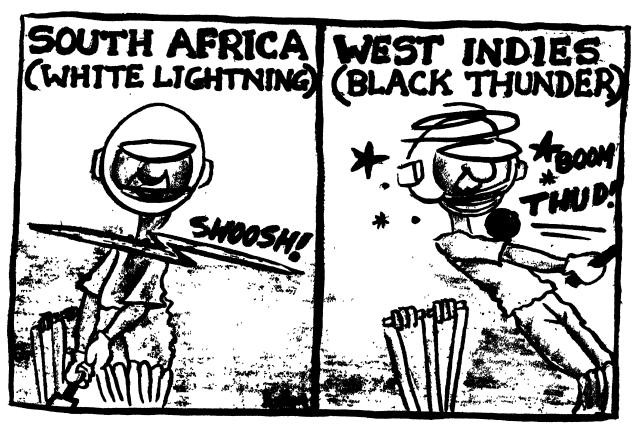


CARTOON CORNER

RTHUR CARDOZO
casts a sardonic
eye on the current
India-West
Indies tour







RUNNING FOR 2004

From 11 cities, five have been short-listed.....Athens, Cape Town, Rome, Buenos Aires and Stockholm...to become the host for the 2004 Olympic Games. Whichever city wins will earn guaranteed revenues of \$1 billion

that can truly lay claim to having an Olympic tradition, as it was host to the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896, not to mention the original Games held in nearby Olympia in 776 BC.

Losing the Centenary Games to Atlanta was a bitter blow to a country that believed it was entitled to the event. But as bid committee president Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki says, "The Olympic spirit is engrained in our nature, but we're not entitled to the Games. We have to win them on merit."

The Athens strategy is very different from last time. When Atlanta was chosen for the 1996 Games, the Greek bid was based on blueprints and promises. Now, a multitude of infrastructure improvements is already underway, and will be completed well before the 2004 Olympics.

Major public works projects in motion include the construction of a new international airport, capable of handling 16 million passengers a year and boasting top-range security; a new improved metro system, costing \$2.6 billion, that will help to reduce traffic; a new highway around Athens; and a pollution control

project, funded by the European Union, that has already noticeably improved air, drinking water and sea water quality (Greece, with over 10 million visitors a year, has some of th cleanest "blue flag" beaches in the Mediterranean).

The Olympic village for 2004 woul be in the same site as the one which

ATHENS DEVOTED TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES



ATHENS 2004

CANDIDATE CITY



had been planned for 1996—an 83 hectare area some 23 km from the centre of Athens. The choice kills two birds with one stone—it is in the foothills of the mountains to the north-west of Athens and thus is cooler and cleaner than a city centre location.

After the disappointment of the 1996 campaign, coupled with the fact that Greece won more medals than expected in Atlanta, an overwhelming 96% of the population of greater Athens wants the Games to return to their birthplace.

Angelopoulos sums up: "We want them so much, to contribute to peace, culture, civilisation, unity between nations—and we want to show the Olympic family that we're capable of it."

BUENOS AIRES

ITH 11 million inhabitants,
Buenos Aires is the most
populous city bidding for the 2004
Games. In spite of the sprawling
expanse of the Argentinean capital,
however, the proposed Olympic site is
a surprisingly compact, green and
aesthetically attractive area about
15km wide by 2km long along the
banks of the River Plate, known as the
Olympic Corridor or Olympic Park. It
is the verdant heart of the city,
complete with woodlands and the
protected Nature Reserve.

One would think that city-centre traffic and transport might be one of the sticking points of a megalopolis like Buenos Aires, but Francisco Mayorga, president of the Buenos Aires 2004 Bid Committee—and also Federal Minister for Tourism—stresses, "The Olympic Avenue, the main artery linking the village and press centre in the port area with the 24 venues strung out down the waterfront strip, will be completely closed to general traffic."

Only official vehicles will be allowed access — and there is also a fleet of river-boats that will transport athletes, press, officials and dignitaries to various points along the strip. For



those who wish to venture outside of the city-centre Olympic Park, Buenos Aires' public transport system operates 24 hours a day, unlike in many other big cities.

Argentina is a sports-mad country, and Buenos Aires is proud of its role in the hosting of many international events, including the 1951 and 1995 Pan American Games (the latter in nearby Mar del Plata), the 1978 football World Cup, the 1990 Basketball World Championships and the 1996 Argentine F1 Grand Prix. As a result of this dedication to sport, 75% of Olympic facilities are already constructed, and the remaining 25% will be built independent of the bid.

Mayorga insists: "Our bid is not a catalyst to the redevelopment of Buenos Aires. We have much of the necessary infrastructure in place already. Argentina is the only founding member of the IOC that has not yet hosted the Games, and we feel that now, with this seventh bid, it is time to hand the Olympics to South America."

CAPE TOWN

NE look at the Cape Town 2004 logo gets at the heart of it: this is the African bid. As President Mandela has declared to the IOC, Cape Town is bidding for the Games "...on behalf of Africa", a continent which has yet to

stage the Olympic Games. The centre-piece of the bid proposal is the sporting and cultural impact on the whole continent—and the confirmation of South Africa's return to the international family of nations in the post-apartheid era.

The Olympic relay would be a tangible symbol of this re-emergence: the flame would travel from Olympia through the Middle East, then pass through almost all of Africa before arriving in the host city Cape Town.

Thanks to its climate, South Africa isn't short of outdoor sports facilities, and the national passions of rugby and cricket will do their bit by providing instant grounds for the Olympic sports of soccer and baseball. However, indoor sports are not as popular, and almost 40% of the facilities needed to host the Summer Games must be constructed from scratch.

Cape Town sees this as very positive, as it means jobs, lots of them. "What other project can bring in nearly four billion rand from abroad?" demands CEO Ball. "We'd need to construct an Olympic stadium, an aquatic centre, an indoor sports hall, rowing and canoeing facilities, the Olympic village and press centre, not to mention good hotels and roads."

Cape Town already possesses a sound transportation system, with excellent rail links from outlying areas—there are 1,139 trains on the metro rail network (four times the number in Atlanta) carrying 660,000 people daily. Other basic infrastructure, such as water supply, electricity and telecommunications will be set up





from scratch well before 2004, the city assures. As Ball says, "You can't promote the benefits of your bid without having a technically sound plan."

The Cape Town Olympic Park contains the Olympic stadium, swimming complex and a number of other venues as well as the Olympic village, where all athletes will be housed together. Three other sports

venues, the media village and the IBC are just ten minutes away. All Olympic venues are contained within a 15 minute radius by road.

Cape Town's Olympic bid enjoys the high-profile sponsorship of major corporations—'Mercedes-Benz', 'Siemens' and 'CalTex' (a division of Texaco)— and is even being promoted with a play on the 'Mercedes' slogan: "Engineered like no other bid in the world..."

ROME

ONEY and memories underpited Rome's bid for the 2004 Olympics, which is also the bid of the new Millennium. The year 2000 is one of great significance for Christians, and Rome expects at least 30 million visitors from around the world to flood the city during the twelve months. A programme is

underway to modernise services, accommodation and transportation, including two new subway lines and improved railway connections. The price tag for the planned infrastructure development for the 2000 Jubilee and the 2004 Olympics, is a whopping \$10 billion.

"The Olympic Games, which are the world's most important mass event, can be a focal point for building this millennial city, an objective to strive for, with everybody involved," says Raffaelle Ranucci, director of the bidding effort.

Rome hardly needs to sell or explain its cultural and aesthetic assets. "Rome manages to merge the ancient and the modern, history and technology, art and efficiency, making it the ideal site for the writing of the first pages of Olympic history in the Third Millennium." declares Ranucci.

79% of sports facilities are already built and operative and only eight new venues need to be built. Of the 30 existing ones, 17 will need slight alterations. four are to be restructured and nine fitted-out. There will be three Olympic areas.

The main area will be the Foro Italico, centring on the 1960 Olympic Stadium (re-made for football's 1990 World Cup) and its adjoining training sites. The nearby Flaminio arena facility is to be transformed into an 18,000-seat venue. Beach volleyball would take place in the coastal suburb of Ostia, with sailing in Anzio, 45 minutes away. Ranucci picks out the Olympic village at the University of Rome as one of the main benefits the city will inherit. "It will provide modern, functional campus housing for 15,000 young people."

The fact that Rome has hosted the Summer Games as recently as 1960 is seen as a philosophical bonus by the bidding committee, with a tinge of nostalgia. "The 1960 Olympics were 'the last edition on a human scale', as the papers put it," Ranucci says. "The Rome Olympics were memorable not only for being well organised but for the warm atmosphere with which the

city welcomed athletes from around the world." Mario Pescante, IOC member, says, "We want to give our young people the chance to experience sport as we did awaiting those 1960 Garnes..."

STOCKHOLM

NY city, even Stockholm itself, might find it hard to live up to the accolades of Baron de Coubertin after the 1912 Olympic Games, when he effusively praised the aesthetic qualities of the leafy Swedish capital, which is built on a series of 14 islands.

Much of its park-like, small-town atmosphere remains, but the city has a population of more than 1.6 million; it accommodates the Nobel Prize ceremonies every year and has successfully hosted a variety of other international events including the **United Nations Conferences on** Security and the Environment, as well as major competitions of more than 20 Olympic sports federations.

The economic underpinning of the 2004 Bid has a reassuring depth. The city of Stockholm approved the project in October 1995, and seven months later, the Swedish Parliament agreed ---with 80% in favour and only 5% against—to provide a complete financial guarantee for the Games budget. Olof Stenhammar. president and CEO of Stockholm 2004, recounts: "A grant of \$340 million had been carmarked for the organisation from the state lottery, but this was deemed too risky, so the Swedish government stepped in and



handed us what is in effect a blank cheque, with no strings attached. That's proof of the viability of the Stockholm bid."

The total Olympic budget is calculated at \$1.9 billion, to cover running costs of the Games as well as the two principal bid-dependent projects: the broadcast centre-which would be built in an old bus terminal only 600m from the Olympic village—and the Olympic stadium. At an estimated cost of \$395.2 million, the 'Victoriastadion' is the biggest investment tied to the Olympic budget. It would have a capacity of 70,000 and afterwards would be converted to a covered stadium for athletics and football.

Two facilities that have yet to be built are the aquatic centre and shooting range, currently being developed for the 1999 World Police and Firefighters Games. They are independent of the bid, leaving only five modest venues to be funded out of the Olympic budget: archery, field hockey, softball, sailing and slalom canoeing.

In 2004, all the athletes will be housed together in the Olympic village; in Stockholm, they'd be right in the thick of things, in the very centre of the city.

Commenting on the perception of Stockholm as a relatively small city, Stenhammar notes: "It is not always a good thing to bring colossal events to colossal cities-they have their own problems to deal with." In an effort to stamp out any potential big-city transportation problems, a new runway will be built at the airport, with a new high speed train system linking it to the city.

Stockholm can be got around almost completely on foot. Although there is an Olympic Transportation Plan being developed, the existing public transportation system is already double the capacity of Atlanta's and many of the facilities are only minutes from each other. The organisers envisage the city centre becoming a pedestrian-style global village during two weeks in the Swedish summer of 2004. 17 COURTESY SPORTVISION

THE BIGGEST LIGHT



Fans of 'Paris Saint Germain' football club in France were asked to hold up the 'world's biggest T-shirt' in the stands at Marseille in France. The dimensions of the shirt—40m high; 50m wide; weighing 260 kgs and covering 1360 square metres,— enabled it to gain an entry into the Guinness Book Of World Records. It was sponsored by car-maker 'Opel' and co-sponsored by 'Nike' and 'PSG' (Paris Saint Germain)



Allan Donald, surprisingly, was not reprisended for his verbal abuse of Dravid

Unpleasant Surprise

Tomes as an unpleasant surprise to discover that different rules apply to different people. One would have imagined that Allan Donald's mid-pitch monologue, replete with four-letter words, to Rahul Dravid would have caused him to have been, at the least, reprimanded, but wonder of wonders, match referee—Jarman—seems to have

been napping during that time.

On the flip side, consider the fact that Dharmani and Ganguly were made to forego a fourth of their match fees for 'exce-sive appealing', whatever that implies, and that Azharuddin was warned for glaring at Shaun Pollock. Also consider the blind eye turned to Cronje's shove to Srinath, and, if one goes back to the '92-93 Friendship Tour, the Kapil Dev-Kepler Wessel's incident which was conveniently blacked-out by the TV cameras.

The only conclusion that can be arrived at is a distressing one and cannot harbour well for South African cricket. A racist outlook, an appalling lack of sportsmanship and a childishly sore attitude to losing are nothing to be proud of.

And for us, we can look at the brighter side: Dravid wasn't fined for glaring at Donald, was he?

PAYAL DHAR, New Delhi.

Spectacular

THE defeat of Mike Tyson at the hands of Evander Holyfield was certainly spectacular and has opened up the heavyweight division; this previously was dominated by Tyson.

The thought of a Tyson-Holyfield

rematch refreshens our minds to the Muhammad Ali-Frazier and Ali-George Foreman eras. This certainly will give a great spur to boxing freaks who will be longing for this great rivalry to continue.

ARSHAD, Jorhat.

Best Cricketing Side

BELIEVE that the Aussies are one of the best cricketing sides on the world scene today. They are a contrast of youth and experience. They have extremely talented players who go out on the field, give their best and win the game. The Waugh siblings have been a source of strength and inspiration; under Mark Taylor's captaincy, the team has been blossoming.

The following poem is the true expression of my opinion about the Aussies:

Cricket, Oh! what a game There is money, passion and fame I just love the way South Africa play Indians should win I pray But when it comes to the Aussies Ladore that team About them so much I dream Oh! what a great captain is Mark Taylor He leads his side with zeal and valour A great wicket-keeper is Ian Healy In front of him others look silly When Waughs are in, spirits are high Balls to the boundary fly Oh! smart Mr. Ricky His strokes are pretty tricky Michael Bevan runs so fast The fielders can only gasp When it comes to Shane Warne His flippers make batsmen moan Law and Slater when in flow Make the rivals' spirit low Above all, they are so sporting a team That with respect and love for them, Our eyes continuously gleam.

CHARU PUROHIT, Jodhpur

Wise Thing

RRESPECTIVE of India's performance in South Africa (that was known anyway), you have done the wise thing by giving us an eyeful of Kamal Julka's photo features which was more thrilling than the matches.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.



DOESHE CHUCK ORDOES AE NOT?

RAJESH CHAUHAN has been accused of chucking. The majority of umpires in India feel so. The ICC suspects it also. His international career is most probably on the line now

HUCKING the ball is not new to cricket. History is replete with incidents when bowlers, sometimes deliberately, sometimes, with suspect actions—often as a result of some deformity in their bowling arms—were called for throwing.

In the Seventies and the Eighties, it became a fashion with captains to identify opposition bowlers with suspect action and point an accusing finger towards them, thereby putting them under pressure. This was usually at the beginning of a series.

As usual, England were the pioneers in such psychological warfare Karsan Ghavri and Manoj Prabhakar had fingers pointed at them by Englishmen. In Ghavri's case, it was his deceptive angular short-pitched delivery, while for Manoj, it was a funny wrist-action which prompted a whisper campaign which subsequently died a natural death.

The Aussies then took it upon themselves to teach Muttiah Muralidharan a lesson. Unable to counter Muralidharan's big off-spinner, the Aussies decided to psyche out the only Tamilian in the Lankan team by claiming that he was 'chucking'

When umpire Darrell Hair called Muralidharan for chucking on December 26, 1995, he, literally, stirred a hornet's nest. What irked the Lankan team management was that while Hair called the off-spinner for chucking, the ICC 'neutral' umpire for the match, Steve Dunn of New Zealand, found no fault with his action when he was brought on at the other end.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) as well as the entire team stood by Muralidharan during this sordid affair. The BCCSL went ahead and hired the services of top scientists who 'proved' irrefutably that Muralidharan's action, although appeared to be slightly suspect on account of a deformity in his right elbow, was certainly not illegal. The International Cricket Council (ICC), an impotent body at the best of times, reacted belatedly on the issue of chucking.

The accusing finger now being

pointed towards the Indian off-spinner, Rajesh Chauhan is part of a cleansing drive initiated by the ICC to rid the game of chuckers. However, funnily enough, the ICC letter which accompanies the videotape of Chauhan's bowling action, which is now in the hands of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), does not conclusively say that Chauhan chucks. It only 'suspects'.

The BCCI, never known for taking a forthright stand, chose to adopt an ostrich policy. The Board sat on it, while they 'unofficially' told the national selectors not to consider Chauhan for any international assignments without even informing the player about the whole problem.

Oblivious to all the behind-the-scenes development, Chauhan went about his business of bowling out the opposition in domestic cricket. And he did it with a vengeance, hoping for a recall in what turned out to be a year of comebacks in Indian cricket.

Chauhan was a trifle bewildered when he was even ignored for the Challenger Trophy which preceded the one-off Test versus Australia and the triangular Titan Cup. Well, if you are not in the top 36 players in the country, you cannot exactly hope to break in to the big time.

Not one to be deterred, Chauhan plunged into the Ranji Trophy games to prove himself once again. The migration of Narendra Hirwani from Madhya Pradesh to Bengal, meant additional responsibility for him. And he responded brilliantly, turning in match-winning performances, to guide Madhya Pradesh into the knock-out phase.

But Chauhan has been a confused man ever since the ICC's suspicion became public. The Board, caught unawares, grudgingly acknowledged the ICC's reservations and handed over the tape to Sunil Gavaskar, the chairman of the technical committee for his views.

The BCCI's inaction was quite in contrast to its Sri Lankan counterpart which left no stone unturned to save Muralidharan's career. Not only has the Board put Chauhan's

Rejesh Chauhan is suspected of chucking. Will he be able to vindicate himself?

international career on hold by keeping the matter under wraps till it leaked, it has also been unfair to batsmen in domestic cricket. For, if Chauhan indeed chucks, he is claiming victims illegally.

Does Chauhan really chuck?
Well, an overwhelming majority of
the first class umpires in India, who
have watched him closely feel he does
even though he has never been called
for chucking anywhere during his
stint with the national side. The
question now arises that if Chauhan
does chuck, why has no umpire ever
called him?

A very senior umpire, who did not wish to be identified said:"Who will bell the cat? No one wants to be a Darrell Hair. Will the Board stand by me if I call him? What if I end up being a scapegoat?"

What is really wrong with Chauhan's action?

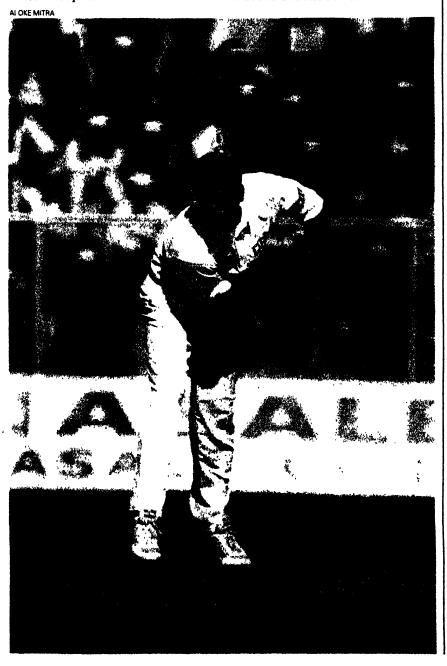
Law 24.2 states "if the bowling arm is bent, then straightened partially or completely before the ball leaves the hand, the delivery will be deemed illegitimate."

Chauhan's peculiar side-arm action apparently violates this criterion. It also means that as Chauhan bowls all his deliveries with the same action, he chucks all his deliveries. Unless proved otherwise, Chauhan will have to remodify his entire bowling action like Zimbabwe's black fast bowler Henry Olonga who was called for chucking in a Test match versus Pakistan by umpire Ian Robinson.

It may not be the end of the road for Chauhan because bowlers are known to have come back successfully after remodelling their actions. It will be in the best of Chauhan's interests to go to an expert like Erapalli Prasanna and work on his action—get more round-arm—to dispel all suspicions.

For, even if he is temporarily reprieved, the trauma of the last few months will continue to haunt him every time he runs into bowl. He may not be the same big turner of the ball with a round-arm action, but it will certainly help him to be a more complete off-spinner than he ever was.

Sumit Mukherjee



PHOTOGRAPHS MOHAMMED SHAFIQUE



the former captain and center half of that great Indian team which won the hockey World Cup in 1975

BY NOVY KAPADIA

IKE vintage wine, Ajitpal Singh has mellowed with age. He is growing old gracefully. Not for him the hankering for coaching assignments or excessive involvement in the murky politics of the Indian Hockey Federation. As he says, "I am with the IHF in an advisory capacity. They can use my services when they want but basically I am on my own."

Ajitpal will be fifty years old on April 1, 1997 but he is still trim, fit, cautious of his diet and dresses elegantly. He plays an occasional round of golf, goes for a walk or does some cycling to keep fit. But his attitude is clear, "I have done enough exercise during my playing career."

His wife Kiran says, "He is a small eater and not at all fussy. He likes Indian non-veg. food and Chinese food, especially soups but not Western food. Nowadays both of us have more vegetarian food."

Unlike many hockey stars of the past. Ajitpal is neither excessively nostalgic nor over acerbic about current standards. He is basically a family man, who during the day, looks after his business. When he is in Delhi, every morning and evening he visits his petrol pump, aptly called 'Centre-half'. It is located near the posh Greater Kailash area in South Delhi. The affairs of business occupy the day.

Ajitpal was sanctioned his petrol

A grey-bearded Ajitpal Singh looking prosperous and healthy

A Day In The Life Of

AJITPAL SINGH

pump in April 1985. It started functioning in June of that year. In 1985, he also retired from the Border Security Force as a Deputy Commandant and shifted from Jalandhar to Delhi. Since then, he has stayed in his elegantly furnished flat near the hub of the capital, Connaught Place.

This flat is part of a sprawling complex inherited by his wife Kiran 'nee Grewal, an international basketball player of repute in the 1970s. In fact, Kiran and Ajitpal met at a training camp in NIS Patiala in 1974. Aiitpal was training for the 1974 Teheran Asiad. They got married on

Ajitpal with his wife Kiran who was a former international basketball player. They met at a training camp at Patiela

October 24, 1976.

In the evenings, it is relaxation time. They either visit one of the four clubs (NOCI, DDA Sports Club, Siri Fort complex and DDCA), of which he is a member or they watch a movie on video or TV with their two sons, Karamiit and Gurmehar. Ajitpal is a great movie buff.

He says, "In my playing days, I used to relax watching good movies, films with a story either in English or Hindi. Nowadays, of course, my children control the TV, so I watch with them."

His eldest son Karamjit is a first year student of B.A.(Hons) Political Science at the local Kirori Mal College. Like the illustrious father, he is also a midfield player. He plays for his college team and local clubs. The

generation gap between father and son often surfaces. Karamjit frequently asks his famous father for tips. Aiitpal's philosophy on coaching is simple. He says, "You cannot be told how to play. It must be within you. You must have the urge to excel."

Younger son Gurmehar is a class ten student at Delhi Public School (Mathura Road) and has opted for tennis as his sport instead of hockey He takes coaching at the Delhi Tennis association courts at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, very close to the house where he lives.

It is a sports-minded family. Wife Kiran was a classy basketball player in her college days. She worked as a sports teacher in Jalandhar but is now a housewife, the boss of the house.





day."

His international career took off in the 1966 tour to Japan. For the next decade he was a fixture as a graceful, classy centre half noted for his delectable distribution and game sense. Of course, the highlight of his career was winning the 1975 World Cup at Kuala Lumpur. He was skipper

of the side which rallied to beat
Malaysia in extra time in the semi
finals and came from behind to upset
Pakistan 2-1 in a memorable final.
Recalling that win, he says, "It was a
godsend, for it changed our lives. I
would not have been in Delhi,
without that World Cup win."

Ajitpal however feels that the



Indian team for the 1973 World Cup was better than the 1975 World Cup winning side. He says, "We were unlucky to lose the 1973 World Cup final via the tie-breaker." His only regret was not winning an Olympic gold or silver medal. He feels India lost the 1968 Mexico Olympics semi finals to Australia due to some goalkeeping

lapses by Munir Sait. About the 1976 Olympics debacle, he felt injuries to Govinda and M. Kindo upset the team's rhythm.

The highlights of his career were being chosen as captain of the Asian All Stars team in 1974 and for the World XI on several occasions. About his playing days he remarks, "We

With his Maruti Esteem outside his home

were confident of our skills and were not afraid of any team in the world. The only forwards who troubled me were those from Pakistan, especially Shahnaz Sheikh. Samiullah and Manzoor(Jr.)."

GOING THE AMERICAN WAY

Many American chess players have quit when still in their prime. GATA KAMSKY is the latest to join this phenomenon

BY DEVANGSHU DUTTA

RACE in a great sportsman can manifest itself in many ways—not least in the manner of his passing out of the game. When the eyes start dimming and the slow reflexes, when the mind takes longer to jumpstart and the new-kids-on-the-block seem to get progressively quicker on the draw, it's time to move on. Perhaps, it's best to move on while people ask "Why" rather than "Why not?" as Sunil Gavaskar once explained when asked to explain retirement after that last unforgettable 96 on a paddy field

at the KSCA.

But, it passes beyond the bounds of understanding to retire before your prime. Yet it seems to be a tradition where American chess players are concerned. A tradition that contrasts strangely with stereotyped perceptions of the Ugly American who defines grace as the refrain in a Mahalia Jackson spiritual. The tradition started with a mad 22-year-old Cajun in 1859 and finds most recent expression in the retirement of an eccentric 22-year-old

(From Left) Karnsky, Gelfand, Kramnik, Salov and Timmen. Five talented and super intelligent humans pose together Siberian-Muslim emigrant called Gata Kamsky. Over the years it has claimed several other adherents—not least Bobby Fischer—who retired as reigning world champion aged 29.

Gata Kamsky had not played any competitive chess since Elista where he lost a Fide title challenge match to Anatoly Karpov in early 1996 by a wide margin. In fact, Kamsky lost comprehensively in his last two competitive events—the Las Palmos match before seeing Anand powering through to a PCA title match versus Kasparov. Despite the losses, Kamsky would have been an automatic seed for this title cycle- and a lot of smart money would have backed him to pull through to the last four stage at least.

However, at the opening press conference at Elista, his father and former Olympic boxer Rustam Kamsky announced that his son would retire if he didn't win --- and he would win unless he was robbed. At the closing conference, he declared his son had indeed been robbed, losing by a four game margin to Karpov, hence was now retiring, and incidentally open to marriage offers from "Good Muslim girls" who could fax Rustam their CV's. He also said Gata would be looking for a berth in medical school and a career as a healer. Chess was too dirty a sport and it had been completely vitiated by Karpov's (and Kasparov's) inexplicable and unsporting refusal to let their positions be usurped painlessly by young pretenders.

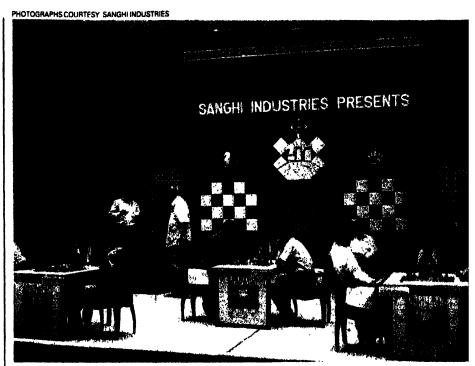


Now Gata has always asked for filial permission even before publicly revealing his secret passion for riding bicycles, playing video games and going for walks at the seaside. That he had never, of course, received permission to mix with the opposite sex might have distracted him from his manifest destiny. So what's surprising about the current retirement is not his toeing the family line, but Rustam having actually meant it. After all, he has said things to similar effect every time his son has performed below his expectations. After a decent interval for things to blow over, the boy has gone back to doing what he does best-play his own bloody minded and determined brand of chess.

Analysts feel that, more than Gata, Rustom believes that on the basis of the losses to Anand and Karpov, and his minor score against Kasparov, Gata does not possess a realistic chance of the title in this cycle. It seems sensible for him to bide his time—at 22 he has youth on his side. By the next cycle, the super K's may be over the hill and short of ambition and Anand will also be pushing 30.

Be that as it may, by announcing premature retirement while ranked No. 7, Gata is only following the American way. Back in 1857, a 20-year-old law student from New Orleans stunned the chess world. Paul Morphy was two generations ahead of his contemporaries in his understanding. He blasted every player of his era into awed submission during the next two years. But, Howard Staunton, the self-proclaimed world champion refused to meet him under strict match conditions and kept finding ingenuous excuses to avoid the issue. Disgusted by this, Morphy went back to Louisiana in 1859, and spent the rest of his life angrily denying any connection with his namesake, the great chess player.

Third on the list of great retirees was Dr. Rueben Fine. By 1938 he had established himself as a key contender for the title and was slated to play a match against rival Paul Keres in 1940



Kamsky matches his wits against Anand (middle) in Sanghi Nagar. While Anand is still in contention for the Championahlp title, Kamsky stunned everyone by retiring

to establish Alekhine's challenger. The war intervened, Alekhine died in possession in 1946, with a nine year hiatus after his last title match in 1937. In 1948, a march tournament was held with the top six players invited to claim the vacant title. Fine refused to take time off from his lucrative psychiatric practice and never played competitively again. He was just 35.

Most amazing was Bobby Fischer. He retired in 1967 and played no competitive chess at all for the next three years. Then he emerged and butchered all comers with tennis scores over 1970-72 finally winning the title from Boris Spassky in the most publicised of matches with huge worldwide interest generated by the cold war environment.

He refused to play over the next 20 years with Fide awarding challenger Karpov the title by default in 1975. In 1992, he reappeared dramatically, breaking sanctions against Serbia to play and win a rematch against Spassky. The chess content of the match was uneven with only glimpses of his sublime skills. He also patented a chess clock which has now been

widely accepted, and a randomised version of the game which has not. Apart from the one reappearance, he hasn't played played competitively since 1972. Top players such as Nigel Short reckon on the basis of the rematch that the only American world champion would still be ranked in the top 20 and probably a lot higher with a little effort.

According to professor Elo's statistical work on ratings, a chess player's prime is between 20-40 with performance peaks coming somewhere between 30-37 when experience is allied to stamina—rather like great spin bowlers. After 40, there tends to be a plateau with very rare gains in playing strength. Usually there is a slide as physical resources fade. This seems to be happening now with Karpov who is hitting 46 and showing occasional inconsistency. Some greats such as Viktor Korchnoi . Mikhail Botvinnik and Emmanuel Lasker have remained in the top league after 50. The American pattern is all the more surprising in this regard. It remains to be seen whether Kamsky follows the Fine-Morphy route of total retirement or comes back pragmatically after the timebound eclipse of the two super Ks.

That is what children all over the world call SHANE WARNE. The man who is widely credited with the revival of leg spin talks about life and cricket in a candid interview



THE KISHORE ROY CHOWDHURY FLIPPER MAN

INTERVIEWED BY ANDY O' BRIE AUSTRALIA

OR all his sensational leg-spinning leats, Shane Warne grew up playing Australian Rules Football, loving shinv cars and, the less-than-groovy music of Slade and Fleetwood Mac. Today, Shane Warne is the quintessential Australian hero of the 1990s. Not only is he an extraordinary cricketer, he is extraordinarily marketable, as lashionable as the track shoes, jeans and sunglasses he's paid so well to wear.

Young, athletic and good looking Warne is also the owner of a vibrant personality and engaging smile. He's ebullient and confident —not

cocksure—and boasts an imposing media profile. And lor good measure he might be considered the best leg spinner of this or any other age. Warne loves a beer, a pic, Footy (Australian football) and a party. Though he earns big money, is contracted to Nike and wears a swish gold earring, he hasn't evolved into a corporation and forgotten his roots. He's the people's cricketer like his hero Allan Border.

In particular, he's seen as the little people's cricketer. Everywhere the game is played, children love the "Shiekh of Tweak" and gravitate towards him. In India and Pakistan, they want to touch him and be photographed with him. In the townships of South Africa they know him as "Flipperman". In Australia and England they hang on to every word and ape his every gesture.

"Flipperman" he may be to the kids, but to the ancient game and its administrators, he is a superman and to the world's foremost batsmen he is superhuman.

In less than five years, Warne has given the kiss-of-life to one of the game's oldest and complex art forms. Almost singlehandedly he has changed the mood, mentality and methodology of cricket in both its five day and limited over form.

Treated with disdain for so long, the

Shane Warne like an average Australian loves his beers and often relaxes with one after work

leg spinners are back in fashion and are casting their spell the world over. Mushtaq Ahmed in Pakistan, Anil Kumble in India, and Paul Strang in Zimbabwe. Even the language of the game has changed as a result of Warne's phenomenal success. "leggy" "flipper" "wrong un" " toppy" "zooter" and other such words are back in cricket vernacular. And to Warne's unbridled delight the streets and parks from Melbourne to Multan and Brisbane to Bombay, and beyond are filled with kids bowling out of the back of the hand. But it hasn't been all plain-sailing for the blond, green-eyed genius who has fired the imagination of folks everywhere --- Sir Donald Bradman included. Warne concedes he was a bit full of himself when he lost the plot against South Africa three years ago and was smartly brought to heel by authority. Now back in South Africa he feels he's a more mature man and cricketer, revelling in his celebrity stature, earning the right to be considered for the Australian captaincy in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile, the international cricket community remains in the grip of Warne-mania. In this interview he talks frankly of the cricketing public, why he went over the top in South Africa three years ago, about dealing with his status and growing up.

SPORTSWORLD: Had you always wanted to play international cricket?

WARNE: No, I'd never really thought about it. All I wanted to play was Aussie rules footy. I never dreamt of playing for Australia up until I began playing for Victoria. Every first class cricketer dreams of playing for his country. It has to be your dream or your ambition or what's the point of playing? Who wants to remain a good first class cricketer? That's fine, if you've missed the chance to play for your country.



were so hooked on footy?

Simply, I got kick-assed from footy. I wasn't good enough. You must remember I had excess weight so I was just kicked out.

Do you remember how you reacted when you heard that you were to make your Test debut...against India in 1992?

At the Boxing day Test of that series against India, I was at the match with Dean Waugh and we were drinking a few beers and having a few pies. We were in the "Bullring" (a popular bar) and it was announced over the PA system that PT (off spinner and now selector Peter Taylor) was dropped and I was in. Suddenly I was in Sydney playing a Test match. It all happened so fast.

It wasn't a great debut with the How did you take up cricket if you Indians, especially with Ravi

Warne has an assortment of deliveries to offer and often the batsmen do not know what's coming next

Shastri and Sachin Tendulkar. dashing all hopes of a flashy debut. How did things change? What was the turning point in your career?

Once I got a taste of playing for Australia, that's all I ever wanted to do. Everything I did, I did to play for Australia after that. I went out and got fit. I become a human sponge, soaking up all the information off everybody I possibly could.

Who did you talk and listen to?

Everyone from Richie Benaud to Jim Higgs, Kerry O'Keeffee, Bob Simpson and Terry Jenner in particular. I was just like a sponge. Think about it, try it, and if it doesn't work out get on with the next suggestion. So I learnt a lot in

a short period of time. I suppose this is one of the good things I can do. I can learn. And I want to learn. I always want to learn more.

Having Allan Border, your idol, as the captain must have helped?

AB was fantastic for me. When Damien Martyn and I started coming on, we were the first guys they tried for a long time. To have someone of AB's experience was fantastic. I'm really close friends with him now. He really did teach me a lot. I still talk to him every week.

You pride yourself, on not having changed much as a person, don't you. How far is that true?

The best thing is that I can relate to all the people out there because I'm like them....I honestly enjoy going to the footy in winter, sitting in the outer stands and having a pie and a beer. The hardest thing about fame and being recognised down the street is dealing with the d...heads...Early in the season, I was having a quiet beer after dinner, when this d...head comes up, shakes my hand and pulls me into talking to his mates. I said, "Hey, easy mate, I've got to go. How are you, have a good night boys, all right," and went to walk out. And this guy said, you're a f... twit Warne." I just lost my cool and said, "Listen here pal. It's blokes like you who spoil it for everybody. You're the idiots who spoil it for everyone. We try and do the right thing but idiots like you try and big-note yourself in front of your mates. Does it make you feel good? Well, if it does then good on ya..." And I just walked out. Unfortunately, I tell that guy that he's a d...head and he goes and tells 50 of his mates that Shane Warne's a d...head and they see you on TV and think, "Have a look at this arrogant-so-and-so."

Do you think that people often misinterpret the body language of cricketers—you included— when you are out there in the field?

When I'm out in the middle I'm very competitive. All I want to do is win. So, some people misunderstand my

intensity when I'm bowling. It's not arrogance at all. It's competitiveness. You don't plan the way you are going to celebrate when you get wickets. There have been big wickets after I've just appealed. There have been other times when things have happened that people are unaware of —like Darryl Cullinann. I knocked him over, and told him to go a couple of times, which I shouldn't have. It came up bad on TV. And as bowlers we have to be aware that the cameras are always on us. But we're talking about a bloke who came into his first Test match against us-got out first ball, dropped four catches at slip, never shut up and got into us the whole time. So when we knocked him over early we were



I think I've always been a good thinker. I've never been an academic....Pythagoras and all that sort of stuff. But you put me in a street situation and I know what's going on. I'm very street-wise....I think I know people very well



all pretty happy to get him. Now that was something the public were unaware of. But we have got to be more aware of our responsibilities. Sometimes out in the middle your emotions take over and you can't control what you do when you get a wicket...

Are you a different person to the one you were when you last visited South Africa in 1994?

Completely different. I got to a stage where I reckon I started to get a bit big-headed. I had started to soak up the good life and really, really enjoy it. When you, start you bust your gut for every wicket and then suddenly you get five, three, six.....and you think "funny thing, it's not all that

hard." In the last couple of years I've really appreciated the game more, and realise that when you think you've got it sorted out and that you're doing really, really well, you're gone. It bites you.

Does being a public figure excite you?

Not really. When you first start you think its a bit all right with doors opening here and there. My night life now is not much. It's taking my wife out for dinner, going to a movie, or to a friend's house to have dinner. Over the past 18 months to two years I've made a conscious effort to change my image and the way I was perceived as being a bit of a playboy. I think I've really matured in a lot of different ways. In the way I play my cricket and the way I go about things off the field. I'm 27 now so I suppose I'm going to mature naturally anyway. At 22 when I made my debut, I was a kid who never knew what was going on. Suddenly I'm in the public eye, on TV and millions of people see you grow up on the cricket field.

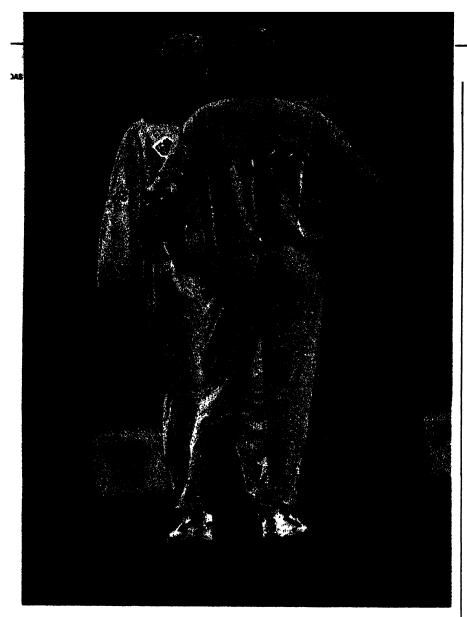
You are now being seen as a future Aussie captain. Have you always had a highly developed cricket brain?

I think I've always been a good thinker. I've never been an academic....Pythagoras and all that sort of stuff. I've never been smart at that. But you put me in a street situation and I know what's going on. I'm very.street-wise....I think I know people pretty well. I think I got my people skills from my mother Brigitte. If I introduce her to somebody and ask her to tell me what they are like, she'll tell me in 15 to 20 minutes, and generally she's spot on.

But what about the technicalities out there in the middle, particularly as a captain?

Over the last three or four years, I've put myself in a situation where I ask myself "What would I do now?"...Every single game, I try to learn something. I'll watch Tubby (Mark Taylor) and sometimes he'll





come out with moves out of the blue which will work. That's great....but you've got to have luck too.

Do you sense you are carrying the expectations of a nation every time you have the ball in your hand?

I think I used to. But now every time I go out to play all I want to do is bowl well. Whether I get wickets, or I don't, all I want to do is bowl well. It's always nice to get a few pats on the back, but if I know that I've bowled well, have done the preparation and don't get wickets, then so be it.

Do you try to forget the tough games when you didn't get wickets so that you don't lose confidence?

Funnily enough you don't remember

the easy games. You remember the hard, tough games when you're down and try to learn from them.

How does it feel to be the man primarily responsible for the revival of one of the great arts of the game?

It gives me a great buzz walking down the park and seeing all the kids like it, then that's good. You aim to please the kids. We are entertainers. There's no point in just going about your business and not making it exciting...I think it's exciting watching a good fast bowler, but I really think the most exciting part of the game is watching the spinners bowl.

What do you think of fast bowling and fast bowlers?

(Laughs) They're bloody meatheads.

Warne with captain Taylor. When a breakthrough has to be made Taylor hands the ball to Warne

We're the blokes who gamble. We're the least s....d up. The quickies are mad blokes. Actually I enjoy the wickets. Everybody's different....I like knowing how guys prepare and I like watching them prepare. Sometimes I sit in the dressing room and watch a player; see how he goes about his game, see his body language on the field....I like that. The main reason I play is for enjoyment. The endorsements and all those sort of things are great, but that's the way sport is going. It's part of the game now. These days all the public want to see is sport and movies.

Is it important for you to be wealthy?

I don't think so. I just want to be happy. It's natural I think to want a nice house and I've always wanted a good car. My father worked his butt off to have nice cars. He's worked his ass off all his life, and all he's ever wanted is a nice car. So I grew up in that atmosphere. I think I'm a bit like that. At the same time I was into Slade, Rod Stewart and Fleetwood Mac. I've always liked that sort of music and cars.

Have you always had a good rapport with children since you seem to get on with them so well?

I just remember lots of times when I was a kid about wanting a footy player's or cricketer's autograph. I remember waiting around a fair bit for guys to sign and sometimes you never got your autograph. I always like to sign for the kids. I think it's an important part of the game. I know what it was like when I was a kid. I always try to put myself in the other person's position in whatever I do, whether it's playing cricket or business.

Lastly, do bowlers make good captains?

(Smiles broadly): Spin bowlers do because they have to think batsmen out.

SAILING AROUND THE WORLD



rench sailor Christophe Auguin gestures on his boat 'Geodis', to celebrate his victory in the Vendee Globe Challenge round the world sailing race

A NEW DAWN



HE times they are a-changing for women's tennis. In the Paris indoor event last month, among the four semi finalists, Jana Novotna at age 28 was the oldest. Anke Huber was 22. While

Sabine Appelmans of Belgium is a fresh, rising talent on the women's tour

Martina Hingis and Iva Majoli are teenagers. There is a slow but inevitable change occuring in A group of young players are making women's tennis far more attractive to watch than the men's

women's tennis. More and more younger players are now dominating the game.

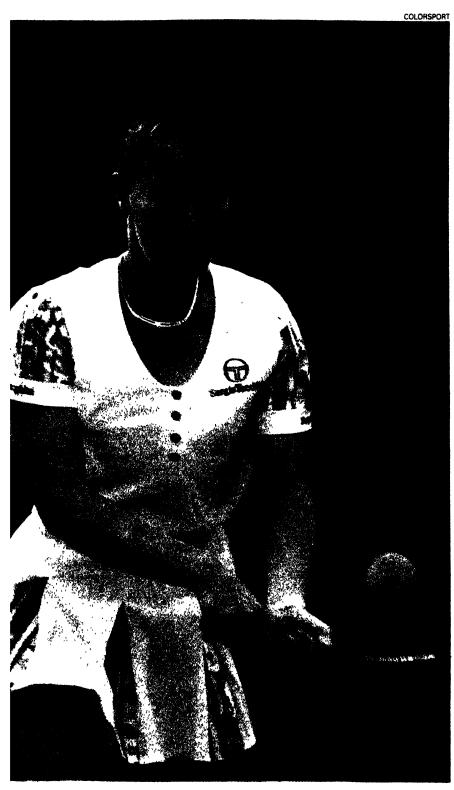
Among this crop of young, promising players, Martina Hingis burns the brightest. She has had a remarkable streak of winning 41 of her previous 45 matches (at the time of going to press), since the Atlanta Olympics last year. This year, she has won six titles in a row, apart from lifting her first Grand Slam crown.

The change in women's tennis became evident at the Australian Open at the beginning of the year. For the first time, none of the top three seeds went past the quarter finals. New players scalping big names arrived on the scene: Kimberly Po; Dominique Van Roost; Sabine Appelmans; Irina Spirlea and Rouxanda Dragomir.

It does not matter that Po is 25,
Appelmans and Dragomir are both 24,
Van Roost is 23 while Spirlea is 22.
They are new faces with great
potential to be good players. Van
Roost and Appelmans have put
Belgium on the tennis map while
Dragomir and Spirlea have brought
Romania back into the spotlight after
the glory days of Nastase and Tiriac.

"It's a very exciting time for us," said Georgina Clark, the WTA's Director of European Operations, "There is now a much broader base at a higher level. I am hearing many people I thought were dyed-in-the-wool supporters of the men's game saying they enjoy women's tennis more now."

Agrees young Iva Majoli:
"Women's tennis has improved a lot



in the last year. The girls are playing more aggressively and now you can see someone ranked 50 beating one of the top players. You can no longer win matches because of your name, although I still consider Steffi the best yomen's player in the world."

Martina Hingis seems likely to dominate women's tennis the way Steffi Graf has done

Undoubtedly, Steffi Graf is still the best. But one wonders, whether it is the beginning of the end for her. It seems clear now that her body is breaking down. She is taking a longer time to recover from her injuries. Perhaps all the stress caused by the trials in her personal life, which she bottled up so well, is finally catching up on her.

Among the other members of the older guard, one gets the feeling that Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez are in decline, although it is not yet vividly perceptible. Jana Navotna and Mary Joe Fernandez are not going to spring any more surprises. While Sabatini and Date have already quit the game.

As for Monica Seles, although she is only 23, she has been labelled as a member of the 'old guard'. She has somehow not been able to duplicate the fearsome form that she had before she was stabbed. For a brief while, she had to take a break because of a broken finger but that has now healed. But she has an additional problem with a shoulder injury that keeps recurring now and then. Her chance of becoming No.1 seems to get dimmer by the day.

The stage is set for this new crop of players to dominate women's tennis. But will there be a varied list of winners inscribed on Grand Slam trophies? Recent history shows that it is unlikely. Here's some interesting statistics: since 1988, of the 37 Grand Slams women's titles contested, Graf has won 20, Seles nine and Sanchez Vicario, three. Before that, there was the reign of Martina Navratilova.

From the looks of it, Martina Hingis is going to rule her era like the way Graf has done. She is very young, but very mature. She has a sound game. As she matures physically, her game is going to get better and better. I have a gut feeling that she will be too far ahead of the rest of the pack.

But Jana Novotna thinks that there is really nobody worth talking about: "There still aren't too many young players around who are extremely talented. Apart from Hingis and, perhaps, Anna Kournikova, I can't see anyone coming up."

For once, it would seem that Jana Novotna is wrong. We have to wait and watch.

William Rhodes

THE COLOUR OF MONEY

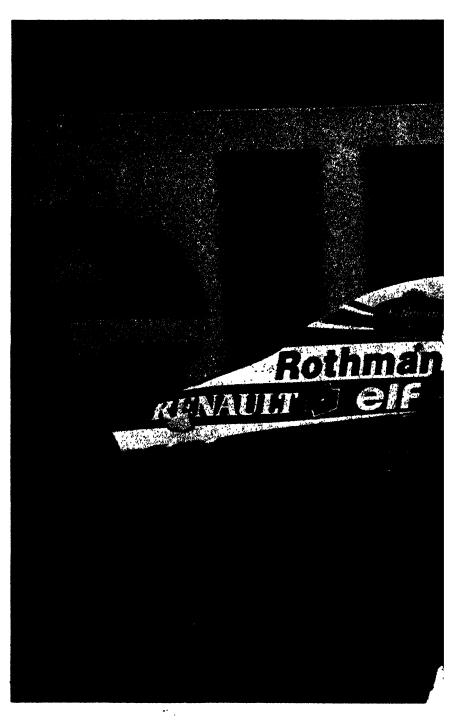
Formula One is by far the most costliest sport on earth if you consider the huge amounts of money that is required to run the sport

BY K.O. JACOB

F one was asked to name a sport where millions of dollars could be lost in a matter of seconds, not many would come up with Formula One racing as the answer. Yet again, if one was asked about a sport where millions are pumped in from sponsorships and advertisements, chances are that F1 racing again would not figure as an answer. Even though F1 is regarded by many as an elitist sport, it remains one where the millions of dollars are pumped into....watched by billions of TV viewers. After all this, it takes only a fraction of a second to reduce a dream machine, awash in advertising logos, into a mangled metallic wreck.

They say that everything in the sport borders on the extreme; to an extent that assumption is completely true. The cars used in Formula One are the fastest four-wheelers on Planet Earth; a team has to spend over 15 million pounds to roll a F1 car onto the tarmac. The men paid to drive the cars are amongst the highest-paid in the world of sport; the engineers who

A Formule One car is a billboard that hurtles around a track at 200kmph, but the images reach an audience of a billion viewers 36



help develop the aerodynamic cars are amongst the most sought-after in their profession.

But it is not just the cars, the drivers and the engineers who make up a Formula One team. The whole team is assisted by mechanics, designers, aerodynamists, publicity agents, marketing men, truck drivers, secretaries and even linguists. They are all part of the team which travels around the world, racing in 17 venues, hoping to become part of racing folklore.

Consider this fact: In 1996, to put two Williams cars on the grid in Sao Paulo for the Brazilian Grand Prix, Williams flew in 17 tonnes of freight packed in 65 boxes. Over 35 members of the staff made the long journey. When the team races in Europe, three giant trucks carry the cars and the equipment, with a motorhome looking after the personnel's needs during practice, qualifying and on the race day itself. The above statistics are for only one team; considering that over 20 teams race in F1, the magnitude can easily be imagined.

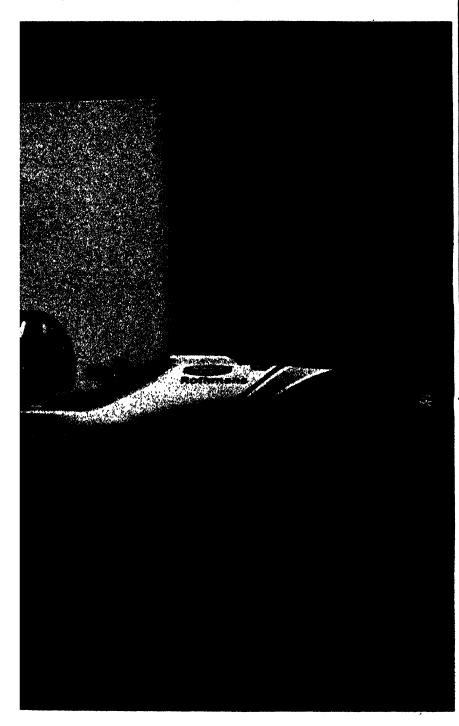
It is not just the amount of people involved that catches the eye. The amount of money spent on an F1 team is staggering; it could easily be enough to run a small country. A top team spends in the region of about a million pounds on tyres alone in a season. Add to that, five million pounds on spare parts, 500,000 pounds on fuel and oil, four million pounds to rebuild and service about 20 engines, and about 1.5 million pounds in transportation costs.

Add to these the expenses during practice sessions. For example, a single practice lap around Silverstone could burn upto 2,000 pounds worth of fuel; an entire session of, say, 100 laps could set the team back by over 250,000 pounds.

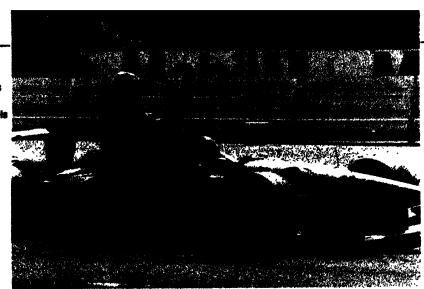
The specialists who design and race these cars come for a very hefty price; they are kept happy by the team bosses so that they are not lured away by competitors. If team Rothmans Williams Renault have over the years come up with cars that are far ahead of the opposition, it is because of the engineers and the designers in the team.

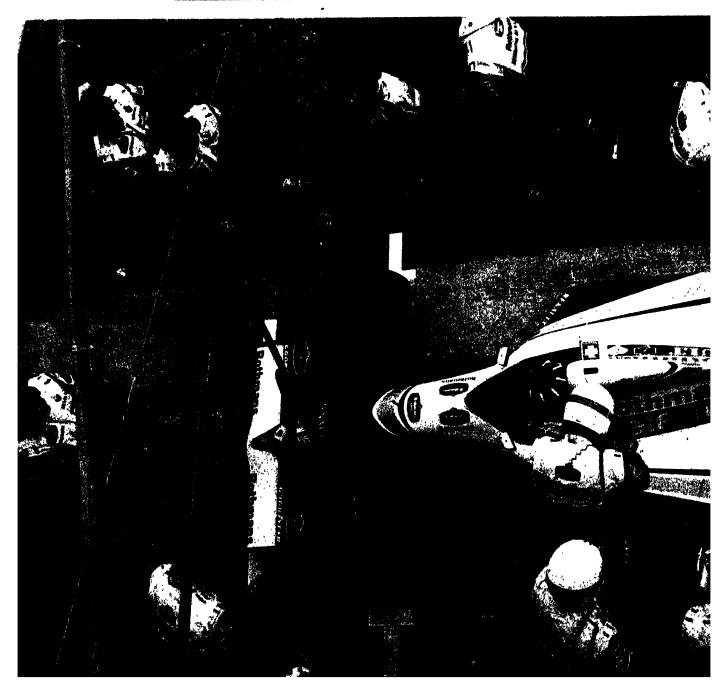
Team boss Frank Williams realised their value and has given them all the freedom and facilities which is why even a two-million-pound-a-year offer was not enough for designer Adrian Newey to switch allegiance to McLaren.

The drivers who put their lives on the line every time they get into the cockpit of these super-fast cars—they accelerate from 0 to 160 kmph in under four seconds, and most attain a top speed of 330 kmph—are also paid astronomical figures. Of course, it depends on the driver's credentials; champions like Schumacher earn about 16 million pounds from Ferrari, while driver's like Ukyo Katayama earns 300,000 pounds a year for getting behind the wheel. But, one



The Rothmens Williams crew at work during a pit step. The crew travels with the team all ever the world





would surely agree that even Katayama's salary is far from modest.....

If you are still wondering how the team bosses religiously shrug out these obscene amounts of money year after year...well, it's because they use the car as a medium of advertisement with the sponsors paying through their noses for every square inch they occupy on the body of the car.

The next time you watch a F1 race, notice the number of logos plastered on the car, on the driver's overalls and



INCREDIBLE FACTS!

Some little known truths about F1 racing

If you were to run a Formula One outfit like Rothmans Williams Renauk here's what you are looking at....

Engine: Renault Sport, the team's rechnical partner, supplies seven engines for every race and each engine is valued at \$3 million.

Car: The technology used is always the latest: this, cougled with the year-round research and development, means an investment of \$37 million in one racing year.

Tyres: Goodyrar is the official supplier to Formula One and they suppliy tyres free to the top teams. For a season, this works out to about \$1.2 million.

Fuel: Most teams have sponsorship deals with oil compenies; the new rule stipulates that you use normal fuel, like the one you get at a petrol pump. In a season Rothmans Williams would need to be supplied with around 44,000 litres of fuel.

on his helmet. Formula One is followed globally and has a television audience of over a billion; so sponsors do not mind putting their money into it.

The team bosses also strike deals with major sponsors who are prepared to write off huge sums of money just to be part of a winning team; they also become title sponsors in the bargain. The big and established teams have no problems in finding major sponsors and striking lucrative deals with them Tieups of Williams with Rothmans, Ferrari with Marlboro and McLaren with West Tobacco are worth millions of dollars. But the sponsors do not mind paying the millions because their names are printed boldly on the most visible places. The noses and the sidepods are the most costly regions and could cost upto 12 million pounds depending on the stature of the team.

The top teams like Williams,
Ferrari, McLaren and Benetton also
get engines free from their respective
suppliers Car manufacturers like
Renault, Mercedes, Ford and Peugeot
spent around 30 million pounds
developing an engine which is then
given free to the teams. They do this
because they are guaranteed an entry
into the glitzy and glamorous world of
Formula One racing; they also get
'free' mileage through their logos.

Many of the suppliers who supply services and other equipments to the teams do it for gratis knowing that their logo, however small it might be, can be picked up by a television camera and zoomed all over the world. The minutest logo could cost upto a million pounds, and every millimetre of the body of the car and the driver is available depending on the amount you are willing to pay.

Now that you know how the bosses fund their racing teams and their dreams, let us also tell you that they themselves are not too much in the red financially. Frank Williams has a stake of around 50 million pounds in the business he started. Ron Dennis, the Managing Director of team Marlboro McLaren Mercedes is rumoured to have a 40% stake in McLaren, valued at over 60 million pounds; Bernie Ecclestone, the man who virtually runs FIA (the organising body of Formula One racing) in 1993, took home the highest salary in the British industry; it amounted to 29.7 million pounds.

The next time you see a F1 race or the picture of a Formula One driver, think not of the speed or the perils involved in the sport. Think instead of the big bucks involved and you'll get an idea as to why people put their lives at risk and are so passionate about the sport they follow.

TENNIS INDEX



C ARLOS MOYA'S career match record in Grand Slam events before reaching the 1997 Australian Open final: 2-4.

YOUNG player that noted coach Nick Bollettieri says "has the potential to be as good as, or better than, any player ever to come out of the (Bollettieri) academy": Germany's Tommy Haas.

Superstar Jaromir Jagr says he most wanted to compete in if he had not played hockey: Tennis.

HAT Ivanisevic accused line judges of at the 1997 Croatian Indoors tournament: Favouring him with their decisions.

HO Gabriela Sabatini and Pat Cash thanked in their post-victory comments after capturing their only Grand Slam singles titles: Their psychologists.

HAT Internet addict MaliVai Washington, who travels with his computer, says he'd do if someone stole it: "I'd be so bugged that I'd just default (from the tournament) and go home."

MARTINA HINGIS' goal for 1997: "Not to have a racket abuse warning."

Leading pro player who partly owns an ATP Tour tournament in which he competes: No. 2 ranked Goran Ivanisevic (the \$400,000 Croatian Indoors).

40

MESSAGE emblazoned on t-shirts worn by female fans of finalist Carlos Moya at the 1997 Australian Open: "I love you Carlos."

YEAR that all-time great Jack Kramer wrote, "The use of two hands not only weakens your strokes but robs you of confidence and gives your opponent a psychological advantage": 1949.

THE reason that Melanie Molitor coaches her daughter, 16-year-old sensation Martina Hingis, in their native Czech tongue: Because "I can't swear as quickly in German."

WHERE the photograph of buxom Mary Pierce in a low-cut tennis dress was partly blacked out by the local censor: Saudi Arabia.

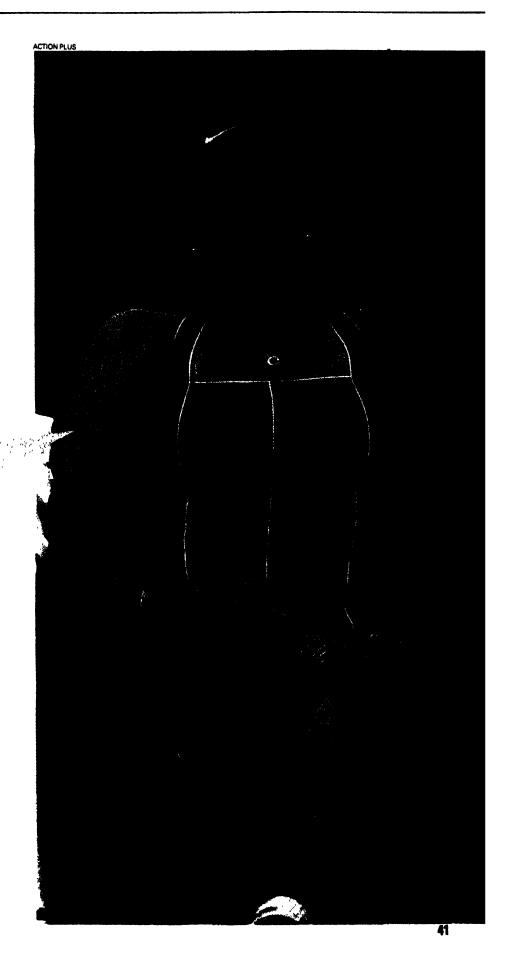
A DDRESS of The Official Michael Chang Web Site: http://www.mchang.com

REASON why NBC-TV
Sports president Dick
Ebersol believes tennis is in a
steep decline: "Because it let's
equipment companies run it."

PERCENT of television viewers in Europe who follow tennis: 48.

OURT surface on which Thomas Muster beat Pete Sampras for the only time in their eight career matches: Carpet (indoors at Essen, Germany, in 1995).

TUMBER of rackets finalist Michael Chang had strung at the 1996 U.S.Open: 92.





Wheelchair Tennis Tour: 20.

HAT a British newspaper declared the 1996 Wimbledon Championships were after Andre Agassi was upset in the first round: "Officially dead." PERSON who, in May 1996, was called in to boost the morale of the struggling Paris St. Germain soccer team—which went on to capture the Winners Cup final: Yannick Noah.

A DDRESS of the Pete Sampras Fan Club: 19 Cosgrove Crescent, Fallsworth, Manchester M35 OJX, England. TUMBER of armed guards to accompany Boris and his wife Barbara in hy following death threats: 3.

AMOUS athlete whom Monica Seles asked for an autograph at the Atlanta Olympics: Mohammed Ali.

PRO tennis player who sent ailing Russian president Boris Yeltsin a get-well message: MaliVai Washington.

AMOUS person who said that it was from sports that he learned all that he knew about ethics: Albert Camus, Nobel Prize winner for literature in 1957.

A MOUNT of money that 16-year-old multi-millionairess Martina Hingis has given her estranged father and former coach, Karol, who earns \$160 a month as a caretaker at a tennis club in Slovakia: 0.

PERSON who has filed a lawsuit against Pete Sampras for \$5 million: His former live-in girlfriend, Delaina Mulcahy.

WHAT Martina Navratilova once mocked Monica Seles for: Not wearing a bra.

HAT Monica Seles says
"was the closest I've
ever come to a perfect
match": Her 6-1, 6-1
thrashing of Martina
Navratilova in the 1990
Italian Open final.

Compiled by Paul Fein

FIST OF FURY!



ennox Lewis (left) sends a crashing right hand to the face of Oliver McCall during the fifth round of their WBC heavyweight fight at the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, last month. Lewis won when the referee stopped the fight at 55 seconds in the fifth round



COLORSPORT

MACTHE MOUTH ROARS

JOHN McENROE is his usual no-holds-barred self in this frank and engaging interview

IN his Superbrat days, he lashed out at umpires, linespeople, opponents, fans and entire nations. Now, as an outspoken TV tennis commentator (when he's not making music, running his art gallery and caring for his five children), he attacks the ATP Tour for damaging the sport he cares deeply about.....

You've said, "The trouble with tennis today is there's too much money and too many nice guys."
Would you please expand on that?

The obscenity of the staggering amounts of prize money has gotten so revolting that I don't think people want to view the top players as personalities. It's hard to relate to them. I got \$39,000 when I won the U.S.Open. Now the winner gets \$600,000. We should take 10% of the prize money and give it to charity.

When I played Davis Cup for the first time (in 1978), we got \$1,000. Now these guys get \$25,000 per match plus bonuses for winning and guys still don't want to play for their country. And doesn't it make you sick that Becker and Stich get paid nearly \$2 million to play Davis Cup for Germany for one year? And that was

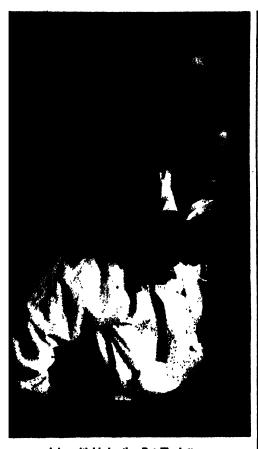
John McEnroe: frank, outspoken and very intelligent. He could be an asset to world tennis if he becomes an administrator after they told the German federation to "kiss off" for a couple of years. You know, the money in Germany has changed the sport. It's not healthy. The Germans insulted the intelligence of most tennis fans. I wouldn't play that stupid tournament (the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup) in Germany after the ATP World Championships. You can't have a tournament where you win four matches and then you win \$2 million.

What about all these nice guys?

You've got nice guys like Pete, Jim, Michael. But sometimes you need more feistiness and fire. It's hard to imagine anyone matching Jimmy Connors' intensity, but I think I came pretty close. And some controversy is good for tennis and for any sport. That's why Andre is great press—for better or for worse. That's why Andre and Boris are, by far, the most interesting personalities. You want to set up a sport that encourages that. The way tennis is set up now, it discourages it.

How does pro tennis discourage personalities?

You shouldn't encourage or allow obscene language. But those times when I, or someone else, went overboard, they should default the player on the spot rather than suspend him for an extended period. That ends



John with his brother Pat. The latter, somehow, does not have the same talent as his elder brother

up hurting other tournaments which have nothing to do with the event where the misbehaviour took place.

The ATP has this accumulated fines rule where you find yourself figuring out exactly what total you have. There were times when I would deliberately go over the limit because then it would be a three-week suspension, and you needed the break anyway. Otherwise, you'd be playing too much. There's a way of manipulating that. So either you'd find yourself inhibited on the court, which you didn't want to do, or else you play the system.

What else do you object to?

I don't like the way they have microphones set up all over the court. If that were in the best interests of tennis, they'd be doing that in other sports. You have to consider what's best for the kids who watch sports, and they don't do that (place

microphones) on football and baseball fields and in basketball and hockey. You can't hear every word they're saying. Tennis microphones make it appear a lot worse than it is. I don't condone cursing. But it almost seems like the ATP's goal is to catch someone saying something.

I also question the 20-second rule (between points) because there are times when people are stalling, but other times if you strictly enforce it, you discourage human emotion and fireworks and energy and interaction with the crowd between points. That's exciting. We lose that now. It seems like robots are playing now.

Brad Gilbert recalled sitting in a locker room a decade ago with you, Connors, Lendl and Becker. Gilbert said: "I couldn't believe the electricity in that room. These four guys wouldn't even look at each other and wouldn't talk to each other." What were your feelings toward those guys? We were waiting for Brad to leave, that's all. You're talking about three of the most intense personalities of the last 15 or 20 years. You have to put Becker at the top of the list for the last 10 years as far as intensity is concerned. Connors without question, too. Lendl worked his way up with tremendous fitness and desire because his intensity level was so high. You're talking about three champions you'd learn things from. I hope people would look at me in the same way. To be in that group is something I would feel good about.

How would the McEnroe of 1984 fare against the Sampras of 1994?

I like my chances, but he'd like his chances probably. Pete is a better conditioned athlete generally than I was. He seems to learn so well from his past mistakes. I felt my serve, together with my serve and volley, was very solid, but his serve is really fantastic. When Becker came up in '85 and '86, he had the greatest serve I'd ever seen.

Pete's ability to serve is terrific. That would be the difference to me. I'd like to think if I had the chance to play

with a graphite racket (instead of wood) for a longer period, then I could have developed more power on my serve. But I don't have Pete's phenomenal power.

The worst thing anyone can say about a pro sport is that its players aren't trying to win. Yet you've said tanking is "epidemic" on the ATP Tour. What evidence do you have?

Watching the matches. I'm not saying that players are going out there deliberately planning to tank before the match starts. My idea of tanking may be a tougher definition. I feel that sometimes you have to figure out ways to be professional. And that means even if you've been away from home for a long time, that you owe it to the people who have come to watch you play-and to yourself as a professional. If you enter the event, you should give it your best shot. Too often these guys who have made airline reservations, if things go well, maybe they'll take the victory. But if things start to go wrong, their effort level drops. That's what you hate to see.

Which guys have been known to tank?

Agassi is a guy you hate to see do it because he's such a tremendous talent. You hate to see it when his head isn't 100 per cent into it. He's been guilty of that. But it's also the ranking system that's been set up. It's as guilty, if not more guilty, than the players themselves because that encourages tanking.

You've said that "by having kids, I got my humanity back." What did you mean?

You lose sight of reality when you're on the tennis circuit. That is your reality, but it's not the reality of what most people deal with in the real world. You don't realise how spoiled you are. You lose sight of ways to be productive besides trying to be a good tennis player. Having kids made people feel they were more accessible to me, and I felt more accessible to

people.

It brought me down to earth and made me more patient and generally relate better to people. I feel much more comfortable having kids around. Just today, having lunch with my brother and my baby and just walking around the restaurant, I don't feel totally comfortable. Yet I feel that is something you do as a father. And I wouldn't do it otherwise. I'd be hiding in the corner feeling like I didn't want people to recognise me. Having kids brings out the best in me. Having kids is the ultimate commonality. People have started looking at me as a person instead of this guy who was yelling on the tennis court. They feel this guy is just like we are.

Have you and Patty Smyth set a John McEnroe was one of the greatest doubles players in tennis history. Picture shows him teaming up with Michael Stich during the '32 Wimbledon Championships



wedding date?

No. We've been pretty busy. But we're hoping to do that some time this

The late Arthur Ashe once said, "Just for the sheer enjoyment of watching somebody play, no one comes close to McEnroe. No one." Why did your playing style so fascinate people?

I'm just thankful that people say that. The style that I played —taking the ball early and on the rise and being aggressive—that's the most exciting way to me. That's what I would like to watch. I don't like to sit back. That's why clay court tennis bores me. It encourages players to stand there and wait for other people to make mistakes. I always believed your best shot at winning the point was at the

Back in the 1980s people used to say that the best doubles team was "John McEnroe and anybody." You've won nine Grand Slam doubles titles and racked up an 18-2 Davis Cup doubles record. Do you consider yourself the greatest doubles player of all-time?

I don't place myself. I let other people decide that. But I feel I was up there. There's no one up there who I feel was a better player than I was in doubles. But I don't go around tooting my own horn.

You always liked it when people called you an artist on the court, and now you have your own art gallery in New York City. What do tennis players and artists have in common?

They're both out there by themselves. Artists are pretty insulated and isolated, and so you can practise and practise, but you're really not sure how you're going to do. Obviously, there are differences because artists aren't competing against one other person directly. But it's pretty difficult for them.

A friend of mine had an art opening last night, and he's got to sit there

while everyone is looking at his paintings and deciding whether they like them or not. There's a nervousness and fear of failure you have to deal with. You have to try to put aside the feeling that what you do as an artist or a tennis player directly reflects how people are going to view you. As an athlete, if you lose, you're considered a loser. And if you win, you're thought of as a better person.

I found myself getting caught up in that. I think 99 per cent of the players do. You could be Jim Courier, who is No.15 in the world, and he's thinking his career is terrible now. He's a guy who has won four major titles, and he's got nothing to hang his head about. Sometimes he thinks things are awful. Then you catch him off the court, and he's a pretty smart guy, and he feels just fine. They should have full-time psychologists on the tour. They're just as important as physical trainers.

The new super camera, dubbed "Mac Cam" after you, has shown that linespeople make mistakes surprisingly often. Do you believe, in retrospect, that many of your protests against line calls were justified?

I believe that they were justified. I believe I went too far in protesting

them. If they had just said, "You know, we probably did miss it, John, but we've got'to go with it," then you say at least they admitted it. It was the fact that they never admitted it that angered me. No one pretends you can see every ball—the players (also) don't see every ball right. But when 10, 15 years go by and they don't overrule one line call for me, you know there is something screwed up here.

Only a blonde streaker enlivened the otherwise boring 1996 Wimbledon final which, like too many men's matches these days, had too many aces and too few rallies, too much power and too little subtlety, tactical awareness and finesse. What should be done to remedy the power crisis facing

tennis?

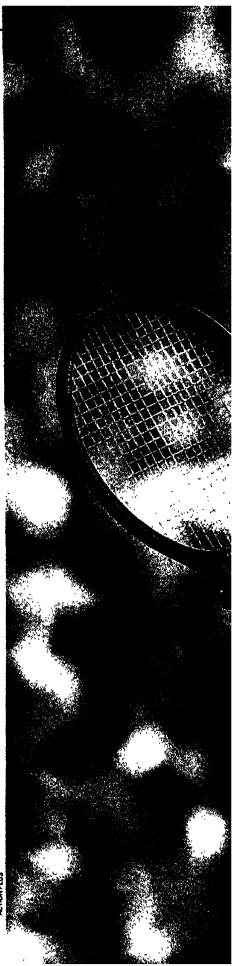
That is really the question. Grass courts are where the problem is more apparent if a big guy is on his game, like (1996 champion) Krajicek at Wimbledon. It looked boring. For that Sampras-Ivanisevic(1994) Wimbledon final, there was only one rally that went over four shots and something like nine minutes of action in the two hour match. That's bad.

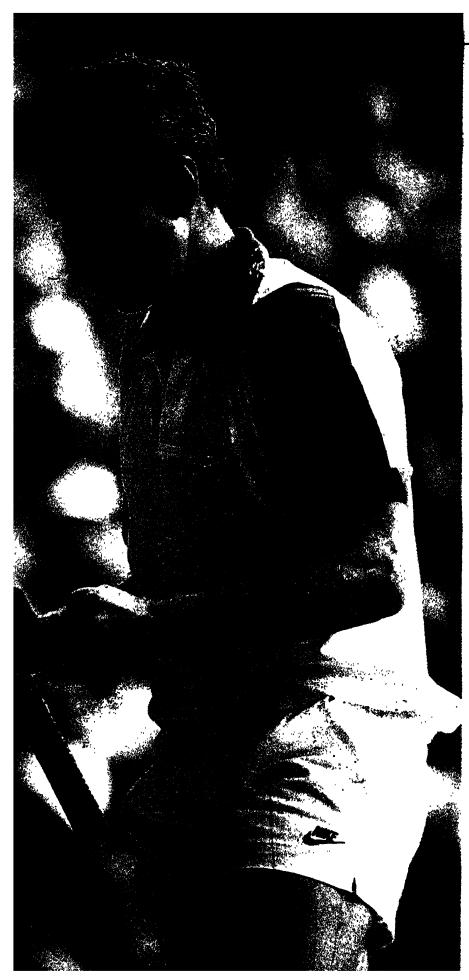
Otherwise, the aesthetic beauty of watching tennis on grass is terrific. Something has to be done. I've always thought that every court in the world should move in the service line a few inches. I think it would make it tougher to get really hard serves in. Tennis shouldn't go to one serve (as 1960 Wimbledon champion and former Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser advocates). Whoever invented tennis 120 years ago did an excellent job, and that would be a huge alteration. It would take the serve out of the sport. We have to reduce the potency of the serve without destroying it.

One possibility is to have a speedlimit and ban rackets that, after testing, produce too much power. I still believe though that we should go back to wood. Pete Sampras played with a wooden racket at the (Nike Cup) exhibition at Madison Square Garden (against Agassi, Courier and McEnroe), and he was serving at 120 miles per hour. The difference is that you can't keep that up for an extended period of time. Pete's arm started hurting. So that's why you wouldn't serve as hard.

Instead of applauding Pete Sampras' courage in his memorable U.S.Open quarterfinal marathon win over Alex Corretja, letter writers to Tennis Magazine—by a 10 to 1 ratio!—charged that Sampras used his exhaustion and vomiting as gamesmanship and trickery to win. Was Sampras innocent or guilty?

What Sampras did was what Connors did. When Connors was really tired, he'd start stalling. He would talk to the





McEnroe's colouriul, angry, personality ealivened tennis during the years when he was at his seak

crowd. Pete said afterwards that his conditioning wasn't as good as he'd like. He clearly took well over the [20 seconds between points] time limit on a number of occasions in the fourth and fifth sets. So, he wasn't innocent. He was a champion who used everything he had. When he vomited in the tiebreaker, that was Academy Award material, if he could pull off that kind of acting. There were times when Jimmy and I slowed down. Lendl would take minutes, he'd refuse to play until every person sat down. This is doing whatever it takes to win.

When you think about your place in tennis history, will people look at your great overall record, or will they remember the times you told an umpire to screw himself? I think both. I wasn't as interested as Sampras or Lendl in winning the majors [Grand Slam titles]. I wanted the No. 1 ranking for that year. Fifty years from now, maybe people will say Sampras was a better player because he won more majors. I don't buy the importance of just counting up major titles, when as late as 1985, guys like Lendl and myself were getting guarantees to play the Australian Open.

People didn't even play the Australian much in the 1970s and '80s. Borg played there once in his whole career. Connors played twice. All of a sudden, you win the Australian, and it's like a major. Nastase played Kodes in the [1971] French Open final, and the stands were half empty. Chris Evert skipped the French Open to play 'Team Tennis' a few times. In my early years, the French didn't have the importance that people make it out to have now. Even though I crossed the line a few [hundred?] times, I'd also like to be known as a guy who fought like a warrior every match.

Interviewed by Paul Fein



QUESTIONS

- beginnings as a carpenter's son, he went on to become one of the most feared and respected fast bowlers in contemporary cricket.

 Who is he?
- Former Zimbabwean cricketers Curran, Brown and Paterson all shared a common profession, other than cricket. What was that?
- How long did the Kiwis take to win their first Test match?
- Playing in his 61st
 Test this cricketer
 took the second wicket of
 his career. However, he
 had to wait for 49 Tests
 before he bowled again.
 Who was he?

Answer to Question No.4



Who was popularly known as the 'Black Bradman'?

Gunther Parche created ripples in the tennis fraternity for a brutal crime he committed. He was later acquitted of his crime, which again made the news. What crime did he commit?



- A fisherman by
 profession, he went
 on to win the 1990 French
 Open. Who was he?
- I won a Chevrolet car in the U.S.A but had to cough up \$ 180 as fine because I was not 18 then. Who am I?
- Who was commonly referred to as the Man from Mars on the men's tennis circuit?
- What is unique about Shireen Khushroo Kiash's sporting endeavours?

ANSWERS

- 1. Curtly Ambrose.
- 2. They were all farmers.
- 3. They took 27 years and 45 Tests to win their first Test match.
- 4. Michael Atherton.
- 5. George Headley of the West Indies.
- 8. He stabbed Monica Seles in Hamburg.
- 7. Andres Gomez.
- 8. Steffi Graf.
- 9. Paul Haarhuis.
- 10. She represented India in hockey, basketball and cricket.



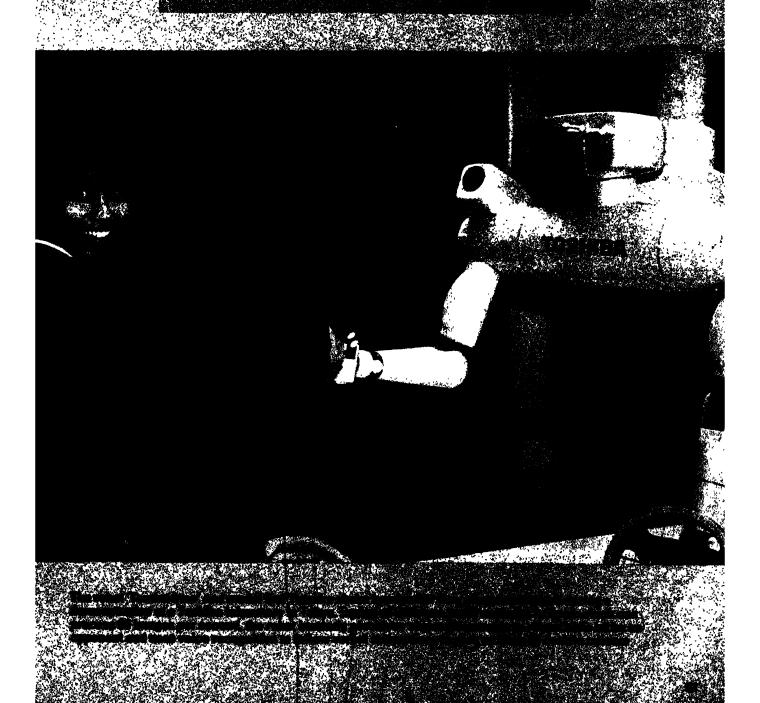
THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



NAJEEB BHAT, C/O GH QADIR, R/O KARAN NAGAR, GREY HOUSE, NEAR GOVT. GIRLS SCHOOL, SRINAGAR. JAMMU AND KASHMIR PIN: 190 010

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their outz.

A PLAYING ROBOT



THE FLOP

Hemprova Ghosh
Dastidar, after a failed
marriage, returns to
play for the Rani Jhansi
football club. This
women's football team
embarks on a tour of the
districts of West Bengal
with hilarious
consequences.....

UR much publicised district tour was a disastrous flop. We drew huge crowds everywhere but our pickings from the ticket sales remained very low because of heavy gatecrashings. Some sightseeing had been promised in between the exhibition matches but this mostly turned out to be the nearest Shiva and Durga temple, the local bazaars or occasionally the ruins of a zaminder's palace infested by snakes, monkeys, and hordes of Bangladeshi refugees who made the place stink like a Calcutta bustee.

Mrs Mookerjee's promise to accommodate us in decent hotels with clean bathrooms and comfortable beds was also a hoax as the rooms allotted to us were invariably small and dirty. The old, lumpy, coir mattresses were veritable storehouses of bugs, the bathrooms stank of male urine and food was overspiced or undercooked.....

Without any real contest from our opponents, the exhibition matches degenerated into a farce, sometimes even worse. Our far-flung sisters were no match for us; most of them were casual, weekend footballers who had practised for a fortnight or even less under some local coach before they



SHOW

BY NALINAKSHA BHATTACHARYA



were let loose on the field.

In our first match of the series against Midnapore Maids we pumped in ten goals, allowing everyone except our goalkeeper to go up and score. The crowd booed the local team and cheered us and we responded to this noble gesture by making a lap of honour after the match, waving at the enthusiastic crowd and picking up a few marigold garlands thrown on us from the stands. Back in the hotel, Mrs Mookeriee dampened our jubilant spirits with the shocking news that half of the cheering crowd had either obtained passes from the local organisers or had gatecrashed, reducing our share of the gate money to less than five hundred rupees.

It was worse at Purulia. After we had trounced Victoria XI by nine goals before the lemon break, the school kids started throwing stones at us, shouting in a chorus "Go back, Rani Jhansi!" We returned to the hotel in a police van, but the boys chased us all the way, shouting filthy abuse, and started hurling stones at our rooms.

After two panes of glass were shattered, the manager politely asked us to leave before his hotel was reduced to rubble. Mrs Mookerjee and Mrs Chaudhury shoved us into a hired mini-bus and we left for Bankura, our next port of call, hungry and distraught, like a pack of refugees escaping their riot-torn homeland under cover of darknesss.

"Two hundred rupees thrown down the drain for commuting less than a hundred miles!" groaned Mrs Mookerjee as the bus hit the highway and everyone sighed in relief. "Mrs Chaudhury, if we have to flee like this from one district to another in hired buses, I am afraid we won't be able to provide our girls even with a pair of socks, let alone boots and blazers."

"We shall have to economise a bit at Bankura, I suppose," observed Mrs Chaudhury, her silly smile still intact.



"We can cut the egg from our breakfast and add a banana. Miss Nag, as our coach, I seek your expert opinion about this dietary change. Surely, banana is as nutritious as egg?"

"It's very filling too," pointed out Mrs Mookerjee cheerfully.

Miss Nag promptly consulted her fat notebook and said, "No, madam, I can't approve of banana as a substitute. The protein content of banana, ripe, is 1.2 grams per hundred grams of edible portions, whereas in egg, hen, it is 13.3 grams."

"I am told that pulses and legumes, particularly soya beans, are rich in proteins," observed Mrs Mookerjee. "Suppose we cut the egg and introduce a delicious soya-bean item?"

The girls protested in chorus:" No egg, no play."

Miss Nag again consulted her notebook and said, "Pulse proteins have little biological value, Mrs Mookerjee. They lack the essential amino acid methionine though they are rich in lysine. In my opinion, only cheese can replace egg."

"Cheese!" cried a shocked Mrs
Mookerjee, holding tight her
money-bag as if we were going to
snatch it away from her to buy cheese.
"Miss Nag, why, you might as well
suggest prawn cutlets or mutton
chops for breakfast. No, let the good
old egg continue. But the question
that has been nagging me, Miss Nag, is
do our girls really need to burn so
many of their precious calories just to
defeat those ragtag outfits?"

"I think we should arrange our games in such a way that the local spectators do not harbour hard feelings towards us after the match," observed Mr. Chaudhury. "I suggest that we should make our games more interesting and well-contested by beating our opponents by just one or two goals. The score board should read 6-5, 5-4 or 3-2."

"Occasionally, we should also show our little weaknesses and pull a draw," suggested Mrs Mookerjee. "I am sure goals can be arranged for either side during the last few minutes





of the match to provide a bit of drama. In short, we need exciting but friendly contests to keep the local crowd in good humour."

Again, there were angry protests from the team. Ira, our captain, declared that she wouldn't take the field if fair competition was reduced to a farce. Miss Nag took up the cudgels on our behalf and fought like a true revolutionary to keep football untainted by financial considerations, but she had to capitulate after some sharp verbal exchanges with Mrs Mookerjee when the latter pointed out that fair competition being an alien concept in the districts, it would be a sheer waste of time and energy if we stuck to our high principles. Mrs Chaudhury tried to soothe our hurt feelings, reminding us that when in Rome we shouldn't behave like Calcuttans.

But our new strategy of playing exciting football didn't improve the situation. We allowed Bankura's Ma Chandi to score three goals in a row in the first ten minutes of the match and drew loud applause from a partisan crowd of 20,000, but when we decided to return those goals to make the game slightly more exciting, we met considerable resistance from an organised gang of hooligans in khaki shorts and black vests who distracted us by dancing a jig on the touchline beating cannisters and crashing cymbals like a group of frenzied tribals warming up for a battle. And as if these were not enough, the moment we entered Ma Chandi's penalty area, the referee blew his whistle sharply to indicate offside!

"Don't try to teach me the rules, girls," growled the bald, hairy gorilla with an intimidating glare when we challenged him. "Only those who can't dance blame the floor."

"This is not football," protested Ira during the interval. "I won't take the field in the second half, come what may." She st arted pulling off her boots and Tama and Damba followed suit. Those of us who play barefoot

had nothing to pull except our faces. Sensing an imminent revolt, Mrs. Mookerjee and Mrs. Chaudhury rushed in to sort-out the problem. They heard our grievances, conferred in hushed tones and then rushed back to the opposite camp to find an amicable solution.

"A deal has been struck, girls," informed Mrs. Mookerjee cheerfully after the duo returned from their hectic parley with the Ma Chandi authority. "We had a fair and open-hearted discussion as to how the game should be conducted in the second half without creating any ill-feeling between the teams. Now, listen carefully."

According to Mrs. Mookerjee's bizarre scenario, in the first ten minutes after the break we would be spared frequent offside calls to help us equalise and, if possible, to get ahead by a goal or two. In return for this great favour, during the next 25 minutes Ma Chandi had to be allowed at least three more goals and the remaining ten precious minutes would be devoted to a real contest between the two teams unhampered by cannister-beatings and partisan refereeing.

"The organisers have promised to arrange an exciting sight-seeing tour for you in and around Bankura town which will, of course, include some famous terracotta temples and historical monuments but, in return for that special favour, you have to allow Ma Chandi to win by a goal," concluded Mrs. Mookerjee with a puckish grin.

"It's not football!" protested our defiant captain.

"It is football!" asserted Mrs.

Mookerjee, glowering at me to
upbraid Ira. "If a little compromise is
necessary on the field to build up a
solid fund, you shouldn't croak like a
dying goose. Get into your boots and
take the field. That is an order." Mrs.
Chaudhury, for once, switched off her
smile and nodded, lending authority
to her colleague's injunction, but we
declared in one voice that we

wouldn't play under such humiliating conditions. Surprisingly, it was Miss Nag who intervened to pacify us. She pointed out that even with all the degrading restrictions imposed on us, we could easily pump in half a dozen goals in the last ten minutes and win the match. "Let's take it as a challenge, comrades," she said raising her clenched fists. "I don't think any of us will be interested in terracotta temples and refugee- infested feudal ruins."

We took the field amidst a torrent of boos and catcalls and outplayed the locals, scoring four goals in the first ten minutes allotted to us. Ira then passed on the word that we would not accept the degrading scenario laid down by Mrs. Mookerjee and allow our opponents to score at their sweet will. The Ma Chandi girls were naturally infuriated when we frustrated their feeble attempts to get level and they started pushing and tripping us.

We appealed to the referee and he promptly responded by awarding a penalty kick against us. Tama argued and got a yellow card; Ira cursed the hairy gorilla and was sent off. It was then that Damba slapped the rascal and he retaliated by declaring Ma Chandi the winner of the match! The jubilant spectators and khaki-clad hooligans stormed the field and started stoning us. We ran pell-mell towards the police van which had been judiciously requisitioned by Mrs. Chaudhury to pick us up in case of a mob attack. There was a mad scramble for the back entrance of the Black Maria and in this stampede I found myself lagging behind my nimble-footed comrades by a few paces. I ducked my head as the stones whizzed past, but one of those deadly missiles finally found its target on my face a little above the chin. I shrieked as the jagged stone cut open my flesh and blood oozed from the wound in a thin trickle. I saw those familiar stars flickering before my eyes, stumbled forward and then collapsed.

This is an extract from 'Hem and Maxine', published by Jonathan Cape, London Price 10 99 pounds Reprinted by permission of the author

RICH FARE EXPECTED

The Classic Indian Open begins at Calcutta on March 27

HESE days it's risky to organise big sporting events without sponsors. Golf is one instance where, without big sponsors, you cannot hold a major tournament. In fact, the cigarette and alcohol manufacturers worldwide have been staunch supporters of golf. In India, ITC Ltd., previously under the Wills trademark and presently under the Classic brand, have undoubtedly been the largest sponsors of golf.

The Classic trademark has come to stay both at the amateur and professional levels. There's the Classic Cup, the largest amateur golf tournament which is held regularly at the Tollygunge Club in Calcutta.

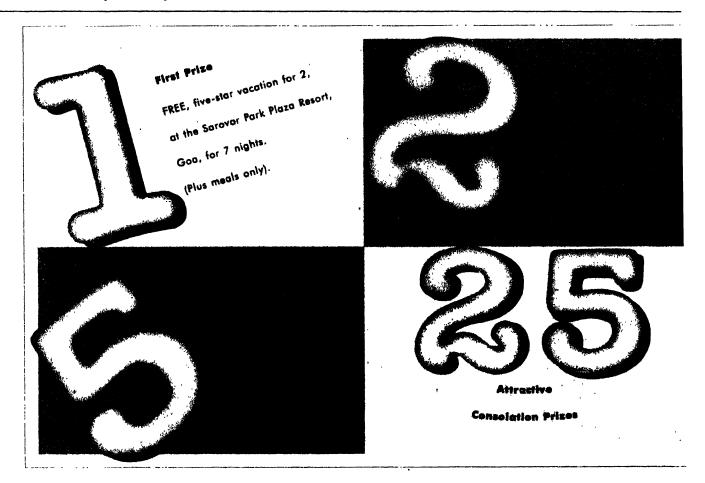
The attractive prize money in the



Jeev Milkha Singh leads the Indian challenge

Classic Tour at the various venues in India have allowed the pros to put in their best efforts. No wonder the national level players have become a big threat to the foreigners, especially in the Classic Indian Open Golf, as has been proved by Basad Ali and Ali Sher. The latter became the first Indian after amateur Billoo Sethi to win the Open event

Golf lovers in Calcutta are enthusiastically awaiting the \$3,00,000 Open event at the Old Course of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club from March 27. The 10th leg of the 1996-97 Asian Tour, which is the most prestigious golf tournament in India, has, as usual, attracted a large number of foreign entries plus the cream of Indian pros.



Here's something for the golf statisticians: till today, 109 players from 19 countries including the US, Australia, Japan, Taiwan and Paraguay have participated in the championship. As usual, the Americans have always had the largest representations.

The Indian challenge will be led by Jeev Milkha Singh, who was 35th in the 1995-96 Asian Tour rankings. Vijay Kumar and Ali Sher, the leading players on the Indian PGA, will join the fray. The others are Mukesh Kumar, Uttam Singh Mundy, Shiv Prakash (who recently pulled off a coup of sorts to beat front-runner Gaurav Ghei and Mukesh Kumar in the Bangalore Classic Masters), Feroz Ali, Arjun Singh, Gaurav Ghei, Basad Ali, Rothas Singh, Sanjay Kumar and Md. Islam. The Indian Golf Union will also allow the top five amateurs to participate in the Classic Open Championship.

So all you golf buffs, watch out for four days of exciting golf!



The Royal Calcutta Golf Club is the venue of the Classic Indian Open golf tournament



Small reminders to watch out for the Grand-Finale of the BusinessWorld 'Hall of Fame'

contest (Issues dated 1st March '97 and 16th March '97). Wherein all ads that have won entry into

the 'Hall of Fame', since the contest started, will be displayed. Just select what you feel is the

best ad among these. Then fill in the Entry

happens to be the one that secures maximum



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BLACK POWER!

Thanks to money being pumped into Indian football, most clubs are recruiting African players in their teams. Statistics prove that these imports have improved the clubs' performance considerably

BY DHIMAN SARKAR

HIMA OKERIE thinks that their presence is coincidental. His team's technical director P.K. Banerjee feels they form the nucleus of the first-ever Philips National League. Which is saying a lot when you think that for most of the African football players in India the passage to this country was made for reasons other than football.

They came out of Africa to study. And though most of them still claim to be doing that—especially the ones on student visas — they admit that it does not top their priorities anymore. Giving Indian football a touch of 'Black Power' does.

Percy Mwase is studying computers in Goa University. His Churchill Brothers' temmate Bernard Ondego has just earned his Llb degree. Officially, Chibuzor Nwakanma too is a student.

But that is changing, albeit slowly. The arrival of big money in Indian football has given the hitherto cash-strapped clubs' ambition a fill up and some are recruiting professional African soccer players. JCT did it first when they bought over winger Stephen Abarowei and defender Musa Alieu. East Bengal followed, getting Chima Okerie and Kenyan captain Sammy Omollo.

What makes these African players tick here is perhaps the similarity of climatic conditions and the fact that facilities, or the lack of it,

ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

Stephan with Bernard (right). Together they form the nucleus of the JCT team

football-wise, is not too different from what they have back home.

And though roping in African recruits dates back to 1979—when Nigerian David Williams turned out for East Bengal—as far as Indian football is concerned, never before the first National League did we see so many in one tournament.

We have had Nigerians in the past but the winds of change have ushered

in even Kenyans, Zimbabweans and Sudanese (Churchills's medio Khalid Tamsa — and Dempo striker Etigani Eldirdire).

The Churchill Brothers-JCT match in Ludhiana had eight Africans in the field as did the Churchill-Dempo match. When East Bengal met the Goa giants, there were seven in the park that Mwase, Churchill's Zimbabwean medio, could have called his

continental cousins.

The Chimas, Emeka Ezuegos and a few of their ilk hit big-time football here in the mid-eighties. Their bigger build, greater stamina and innate athleticism, it was felt, would make clubs which have them on their roster invincible. The concept fitted to a T in the static brand of football we are largely known to play.

At least two of our African recruits used their stint in India as a toe-hold to better things in life - both as a footballer and otherwise. Emeka -after leaving India for good-now plies his trade with Deportivo de la Coruna in Spain and has played for Nigeria in the 1994 World Cup. Chima too got a national call-up for USA '94 but injury scuppered his aspirations. But being drafted into Nigeria's probables list for their World Cup qualifier against South Africa in August has given this Owerri-state inhabitant and Ikast F.S. player another chance.

Both have gone on record saying it was their stint in Europe that moulded them into what they are now. Chima's involvement and passing skills have improved several notches. Gone is his tendency to restrict himself to the rival penalty-area and then work his way through the defence—with as much grace as a bulldozer at work—or just firing rasping long-rangers.

Age may have robbed Chima of his sudden burst of accelaration but he is, it must be said leaner and fitter than ever before. His one-touch game and improved peripheral vision a treat to watch. Moreover, using a greater area of the park makes policing him that much more difficult. He has scored four goals for East Bengal—including one against JCT in Calcutta—but, more importantly, set up many more.

Chima's countryman Abarowei may have missed the bus to Europe but his hitting the scene in the Scissors Cup in 1995 gave JCT more than a leg up. They won the Scissors and the Federation Cup that season and, after Abarowei returned late this year, added the IFA Shield and the Durand Cup to their kitty. For this



BACK TO THE FRONT

A year ago, CHIBUZOR NWAKANMA was clubless and rejected by the city of Calcutta. Dejected, he moved to Goa. Today, he is one of the stars of the 'Churchill Brothers' team.....



THE pundits on the Calcutta Maidan wrote him off. He was living on borrowed time, they felt. Consequently, Chibuzor Nwakanma got the cold shoulder here when the last football season began.

Clubless and rejected by the city that was his home for nine years, Chibuzor, perhaps, had no choice but accept 'Churchill Brothers' offer. He has not looked back and has been on a high ever since. He helped 'Churchill' to their second successive Goa League title, topping the scorers' list with nine goals. He struck thrice in the Philips National League qualifiers and added five more in nine final-round matches till date.

Asked what inspired this turnaround, Chibuzor quipped: "A healthy football environment, a disciplined coach who is given a free reign."

This is a lot dissimilar to what goes on in the Maidan. "Not too many on the Maidan realise that a good footballer may not turn out to be a good coach," he told *Sportsworld* recently. "And the good coaches, Nayeem or P. K. Banerjee for instance, are almost never allowed the freedom required to function.

"Our coach (Danny McLeanen) will use a player sparingly—even if he he is the team's biggest star—if he is not fully fit. Will any club on the Maidan allow that?" Moreover, Danny's no-nonsense attitude ensures that players do their job and do it well, he added. Further proof, for Chibuzor, of the atrophied state of affairs, in the 'Big Three' lies in their experimenting with European recruits.

"Their climate, the facilities they are used to, the environment in which they play their football is so different from India that the adjustment is extremely difficult.....the Calcutta clubs end up searching for the right answers in the wrong places."

Ulf Johansson (East Bengal's latest Swedish recruit) may have other ideas, but given the less-than-ordinary showing by the Latvians, the Swedes and the Russians who came earlier, Chibuzor may have a point. He felt that one of the reasons why Africans are doing well here is that "They come from a relatively similar situation."

As for the state of our nation's football, he sounds gloomy: "Indian football is not looking up because Calcutta, the Mecca of national football, is dying," he said.

Though he felt the National League was a "welcome move", it was just one step in the right direction. A lot more has to be done, especially on the administrative front, he said. "Professionalism has to hit them first... the schedule is still far too hectic."

But already, the first traces of professionalism has certainly changed Chibuzor's attitude. "Previously, I played from the heart....it got me nowhere. Now it's a business," the Aba-state inhabitant in Nigeria rounded off.

Dhiman Sarkar

PABITRA DAS

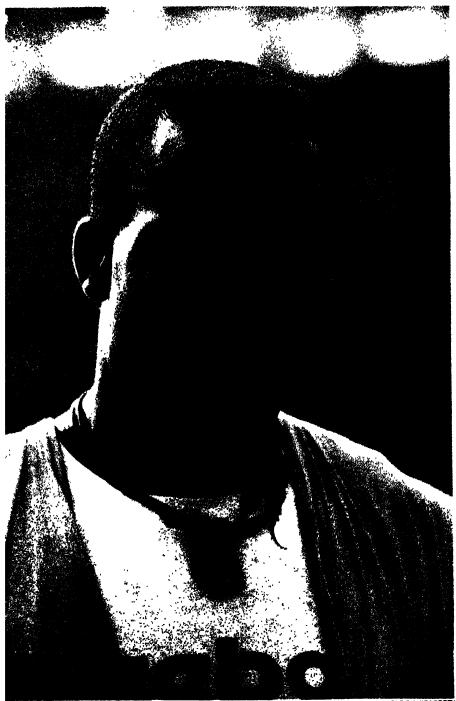
long-striding River State (100 km from Owerri in South Nigeria) winger's influence in JCT's showing in the League, one has to look beyond the three goals he scored. Teams put more than one marker on him and the others in JCT's star-spangled roster—I.M.Vijayan, Baichung Bhutia, Carlton Chapman etc—had

more freedom to operate.

Chibuzor, unlike Abarowei, has been in India for almost 10 years. And this year, Calcutta's loss proved to be Churchill's gain. The short stocky Nigerian from Aba state is basking not only in the sun and sand of Goa and is proving to be more than a handful for opponents all over the country.

Chibuzor, the top-scorer in the Goa League, and Mwase set Churchill off to a dream start, taming JCT in their own backyard.

In fact, Chibuzor and Mwase complement each other perfectly even though they play in different zones. The Nigerian poaches space with his hard-running game, laying



ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

off defenders, the Harare professional league's Caps United club's 27-year-old Mwase uses the resultant space to good effect. Both have scored over six goals in the final phase and look good for many more.

Goal-scoring may not be uppermost on Nigerian Christopher Kem, Omollo, Musa, Bernard Operanhozie (both Nigeria) and Kenyan Bernard Ondego's mind but staving off opposition onslaughts certainly is. The tonsured Christopher's sense of anticipation and his finesse with free-kicks have augured well for Dempo. And the JCT back four can rely on Bernard and Musa to bail them out of a crisis. Bernard's occasional advances upfront too helps the millmen's cause.

A much leaner and mature Chima enthralled his numerous fans with some mesmerising faotball

But the one defender who has really caught the eye is East Bengal's stopper Sammy Omollo. What makes the 26-year-old Kenyan Breweries and national team captain stand out is his temperament. The more the pressure, it seems, the better he plays. Omollo, relying on his shrewd positional sense and anticipation, never rushes into a tackle. And when he does execute one—emerging the winner mostly—he does it fairly. Not for nothing has he played over 76 internationals for his country.

The idea behind allowing five foreign players was to boost public interest in the National League. While the AIFF has been successful in that, opinion has been divided as to their contribution to the uplift of Indian football. Joaquim Alemao, president of Churchill Brothers, feels that six foreigners should be allowed. "Only if you play against better footballers will your own game improve," he feels, adding that the Indians in his team have benefited from rubbing shoulders with his imports.

Not all agree to this. "Our own game will improve only if we play against quality imports. We are just using a handful of students—easily available and cheap—to add more muscle into our game" feel others. Among them is India national coach Syed Nayeemuddin.

Perhaps, the fact that detractors outnumber proponents forced the AIFF to reduce the number to three for next year. But like it or not, 'black magic' is making its presence felt in Indian football.

The African Connection

East Bengal: Chima, Sammy Omollo, Kelechi Okerie Churchill: Percy, Emeka Okeke, Bernard Ondego, Khalid Tamsa, Chibuzor Nwakanma Dempo: Christopher, Valentine Ezuego, Lullu, Eltingani Eldirdire JCT: Stephen, Musa, Bernard Operanhozie

A NEW-FOUND CONFIDENCE

Scotsman DAVID COULTHARD showed his increasing maturity when he became the unexpected winner of the Australian Grand Prix

HEY say that it is very difficult to fit into someone else's shoes. If those shoes happen to be those of the best in the business, chances are that the new wearer would get corns and step out of those shoes. But if you are genuinely talented and have lots of dedication and determination, you could, in due

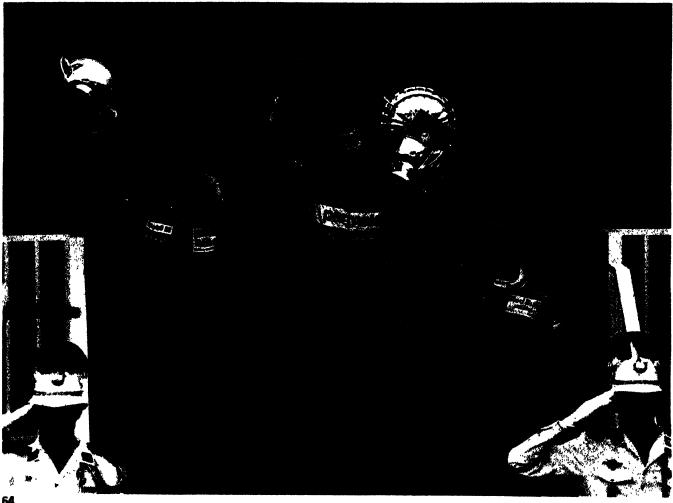
course, feel comfortable occupying the most challenging slots.

David Coulthard faced the test very early on in his career. The Scotsman, from the tiny village of Twynholm, was only a test driver with Rothmans

Coulthard (left) shares the podium with Herbert (right) and Panis at Monaco. This was Coulthard's only visit to the podium in '96

Williams Renault when fate intervened. Ayrton Senna was killed in a crash in Imola and Coulthard was asked to replace the driver who many considered to be the best Formula One driver ever.

The Scotsman decided to grab the opportunity with both hands and ended his first season in Formula One



racing with 14 points and finished eighth in the Drivers' list. After his second season with Rothmans Williams Renault, where he finished third, Frank Williams decided that he would pursue his racing ambitions with Jacques Villeneuve. It was then that Ron Dennis, the Managing Director of Marlboro McLaren Mercedes decided to take David Coulthard under his wings.

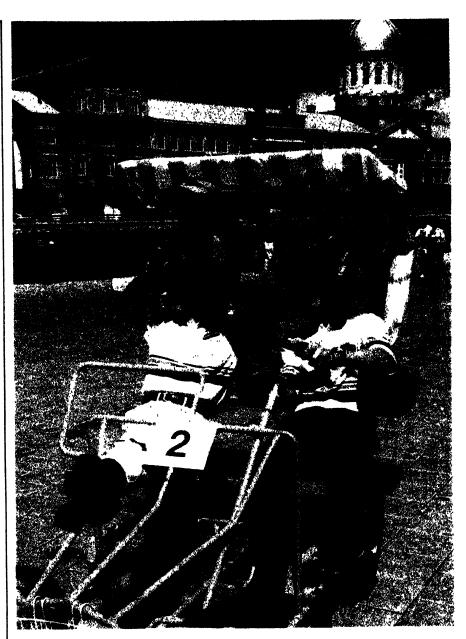
Even though Coulthard had an insipid year in 1996 where he finished seventh and his best showing was a second place in the Monaco GP, Dennis knew that the Scotsman's talent was maturing and that he would get McLaren Mercedes the win that they had been looking for, for the past four years.

When the cars lined up for the first Grand Prix of this season, few would have put their money on anyone except Villeneuve or Schumacher to win the race. But Formula One with its glorious uncertainties decided that it was not to be. Villeneuve went off the track on the very first bend when he was involved in a crash with Eddie Irvine and Johnny Herbert.

Villeneuve's teammate Heinz-Herald Frentzen took up the challenge for his team but long pit stops made him lose his lead to Coulthard and Schumacher.

Coulthard showed a new-found confidence and maturity when he decided that he was going in for only one pit stop at the Albert Park circuit at Melbourne. This strategy eventually paid off because Schumacher had to make an unscheduled pit stop with seven laps remaining, and Frentzen had to pull out of the 58 lap race with three laps remaining, owing to an explosion of his left side front brake.

It was only Coulthard's second Grand Prix victory in his racing career and it was McLaren Mercedes' first Grand Prix victory in four years. But Coulthard and teammate Mika Hakkinen (who finished third) proved that their 'silver bullets' — the McLaren cars are painted in a distinctive silver colour — could prove a threat to the other teams this season. A visibly thrilled and emotional



Coulthard takes Hill for a spin. The two had a great time when they raced for Williams

Coulthard said after the race, "It was a fantastic start to the season and I must be honest to admit I shed a few tears in the car on the slowing down lap. Certainly having Michael Schumacher in my mirrors for most of the race increased the pressure."

With an unexpected win,
Coulthard has proved that nothing
can be taken for granted in Formula
One racing. Not many F1 followers are
willing to give Damon Hill a realistic

chance of winning too many races this year. Hill is still getting a 'feel' of his new car with team Arrows Yamaha with boss Tom Walkinshaw providing him all the help and support that he needs. Damon Hill certainly knows a thing or two about cars and once he gets a custom-made car from his crew at their state-of-the art factory, he will once again press on the throttle towards that chequered flag.

The '97 season promises to provide a lot of intrigue and drama; it promises to be the most 'open' season of Formula One in recent years.

K.O.Jacob

O see Kapil Dev today is to see a man who has lost his extraordinary vibrancy for life. It is to see a man who is living without his greatest passion: the game of cricket. He seems clearly to be living at a lower plane of functioning.

I doubt whether every morning he awakens with that great zest he had during the peak of his cricketing career. True, there are a lot of things to do now—the business matters to be looked into; the attending of functions; to play that occasional game of golf.

But it does not give as much pleasure, as much intensity, as playing in a competitive cricket match and bowling out batsmen and taking catches and hitting sixes with the nonchalance of a master player. That was Kapil's greatest period in his life.

When a man cannot indulge in his passion, something deeply damaging occurs in the psyche of that person. This psychic damage seems to happen to all great sportsmen when they retire. Most go on a self-destructive binge: Garrincha; George Best; Gerd Muller; Bjorn Borg, Diego Maradona....the list is endless.

Can we blame them? Master craftsmen and supreme artists in their particular sport....then to give it all up because of ageing bodies. When peers in other professions are just beginning to settle into their careers in their late twenties and early thirties, a top flight sportsman has to hang up his boots. He has such a brief career: about ten years or so. In the context of a whole life, ten years is nothing.

Post-retirement blues afflict every great sportsman. It is what is afflicting Kapil now. When they quit, these sportsmen have to face that most terrifying question: what to do now? They realise, albeit a little too late, that they do not have the knowledge and the education for an alternative career. (Most have given up their studies very early in life).

Despite the mistakes made by previous generations of sportsmen, most of the current players, in this modern era of world-wide TV (where megabucks are the standard earnings

for any top-class player) have also abandoned their education early, without any qualms. What will happen to them when they leave their sport?

For example: what will Sachin Tendulkar, who stopped studying when he finished his Class Ten, do, when his cricket career ends? Can he be a good businessman and invest his money wisely, even though he has not done business before or has a knowledge of accounts?

Will he be able to keep track of those vast sums of money that he is earning? Okay, he hires somebody, a top class accountant, but what happens if the latter turns out to be a crook? Something similar happened to Bjorn Borg.

He took to full time tennis when he was 16, abandoned his education in the heady feeling of making big bucks. Bjorn Borg made a fortune of 75 million pounds. But he made wrong business decisions, because of his own ignorance, people fleeced him and the end result was predictable: bankruptcy. I am sure a college education would have enabled him to avoid the sorry mess that he is in now.

People who managed to have a college education have been better

Kapil Dev seems to suffer from post-retirement blues...



able to move easily into other careers. Sunil Gavaskar's name comes to mind. Even while he was playing top class cricket, he was already showing an interest in the media.

Veteran journalists recall that he would come up to them and ask them how they did the job. He would ask how the articles that they wrote were send back to the newspaper or magazine they were writing for? What were the deadlines? And so on and so forth.

In other words, he was already thinking of life after cricket. When he quit, he moved smoothly into a writing/commentary career. I am sure it helped him a great deal that he had a college education. Young sportsmen these days should think twice before they stop their education at the drop of a hat.

Just a thought: does Leander have the skills to have an interesting career after he retires? Maybe. Maybe not. He does not have too much of an education. Like Sachin, he has also studied only till Class Ten. If Papa Paes is not there, can Leander run the show on his own? It's a question he has to face, even while he is intensely chasing points on the ATP Tour.

Perhaps the way out is to have a balance. To be passionately interested in your sporting career, while at the same time, developing skills, perhaps, do a correspondence course in accounts or business management, to keep alive the possibility of a fulfilling occupation, once the sporting life is over.

That way, one is better equipped to tackle the post-playing life and not go off on alcoholic binges like the way footballer George Best did. (Incidentally, Best, a school-dropout like Borg, also ended up bankrupt.)

A lot of young people envy these great sportsmen and want to be like them. But we must remember that, one day, as inevitably as death, their glamorous careers will end. Instead of hearing the deafening sound of applause, all they will hear, day after day, for years together, is the deafening sound of silence.

Shevlin Sebastian

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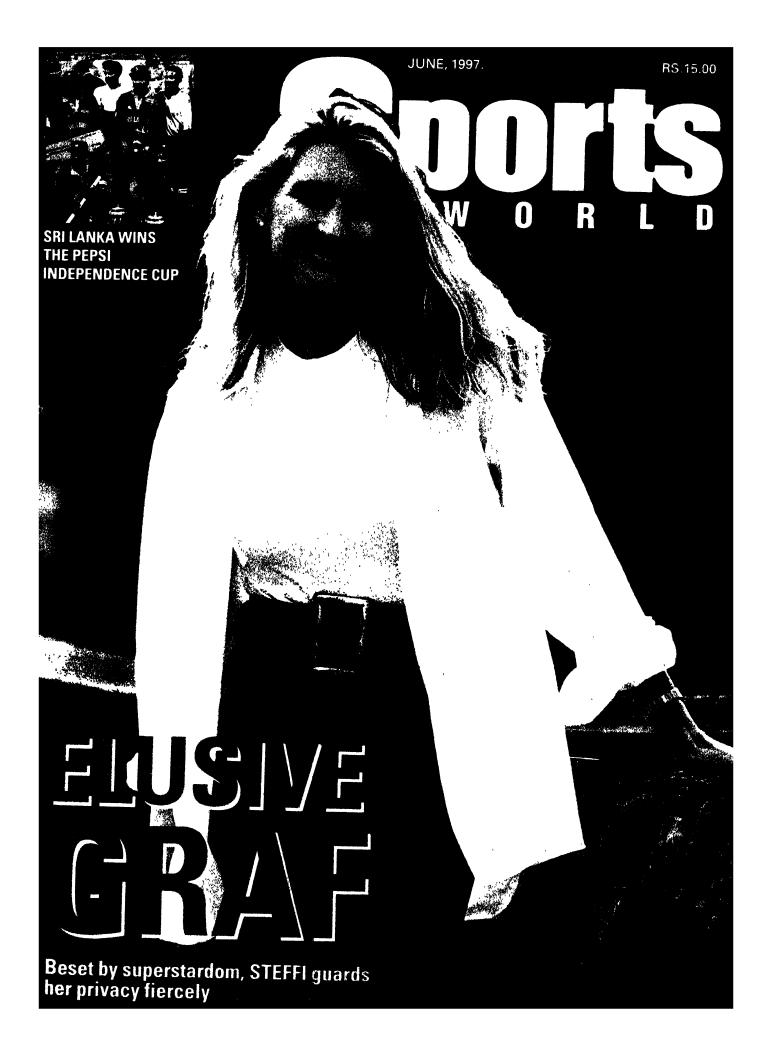
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IN SEARCH OF THE GOLDEN GIRL

Gautam Bhattacharya went all the way to Bruhl, Germany to meet Steffi Graf



MAN Vs. THE MACHINE

Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov. But that does not mean that all is lost for mankind







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A WIDE-RANGING INTERVIEW WITH CLIVE LLOYD

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF STEFFI GRAF IS BY COLORSPORT. THE SRI LANKAN TEAM IS BY ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

FIESTA AT THE GARDENS A mood piece on the second final of the I Independence Cup

A mood piece on the second final of the Pepsi Independence Cup between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at Calcutta

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

HAT can one say about Sri Lanka. The ruthless way they pulverised Pakistan, the character they showed, the determination, the self-confidence, the high quality batting, bowling and fielding—it seemed so implausible that less than ten years ago, they were nowhere on the world scene.

Does this team have any flaws?
A perspiring Rameez Raja, taking frequent swigs from a chilled water bottle, surrounded by scribes jabbing microphones and tape recorders in his face, had this to say, in the post-match press conference: "I think Sri Lanka will only do well on the slow tracks of the subcontinent."

Is this a valid point? In Test series abroad, Sri Lanka have not done too well. They lost to Australia in Australia. They did not do well in New Zealand a few months ago. So are they like India? Lambs abroad, tigers on the subcontinent. It is a theory that Arjuna Ranatunga and his team will have to demolish next month when they tour the West Indies, to prove that Raja's analysis is wrong.

What about Pakistan? Rameez Raja kept saying that it was a fantastic feat to have reached the final. Team coach Mushtaq Mohammed, sitting beside Raja, portly, balding, in a green t-shirt

Arjuna Ranetunga with the Pepsi Independence Cup trophy. The Sri Lankan cupboard is rapidly filling up with international trophics



and track pant, agreed, "It was great that even with mostly inexperienced players and the limited bowling resources that Raja had at his disposal, Pakistan still defeated India."

Mushtaq Mohammed's comments seem to reflect what people in Pakistan were thinking. Rameez Raja and his team will be congratulated for defeating India in India and thus avenging the quarter final loss in the World Cup last year. It really didn't matter that they lost in the final. Revenge is a tastier dish.

The plus point from this tournament for Pakistan: they have a stupendous crop of youngsters who will serve the country with distinction, once the Akrams, the Younises, the ul-Haqs and the Maliks retiré. These youngsters have got invaluable international exposure and experience.

They really look like the slips of boys they are, despite caps placed at a jaunty angle, as they came out of the

Coach Mushtaq Mohammed (loft) with Rameez Raja. They were more than happy that Pakistan had defeated India. The loss in the final did not matter

dressing room, on the way to the team bus, after the final. Their faces, however, had the slightly pinched look of people struggling to assimilate the overwhelming experience of playing before large, passionate, alien crowds for the first time.

This huge crowd at the Eden Gardens: what an atmosphere they created. The extraordinary sound of rhythmic clapping; the blowing of bugles and horns; the wild cheering and the banging of plastic bottles on the chairs in front of them; the Mexican wave formed with zest, people standing up and sitting down ceaselessly, and finally, there were the occasional jeers for—let's face it—Pakistan. Truly, it is one of the great stadiums in the world. And to think that India was not even in the final!

If anything was a dampener, it was

the weather. It seeped like poison into the body. The extremely enervating humidity, the way the sweat dripped off the face, the way shirts stuck to skin....although, frankly, the men couldn't complain too much, as a lot of young pretty things wore t-shirts that stuck to their bodies, inadvertently exposing assets that made the male eyes go round like saucers. The heat was on!

But the coolest man in the stadium, with not a drop of perspiration on him was Jagmohan Dalmiya, the ICC President-Elect. This, despite wearing his trademark safari suit. He came to the Press Box with a grey-haired, broad shouldered man and introduced him to journalists, "You must all be knowing who Rashid Byramji is? He is a legend in his own right." The journalists nodded, myself included, our chins going up and down vigorously. After the visitors left, the query among the younger scribes was: "Who's he, man?"

PHOTOGRAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY





Who indeed, I wondered? Ignorance is bliss.

Rashid Byramji, as racing expert Cyrus Madan clarified the next day, is the greatest trainer of horses that India has ever seen. He has saddled Sunil Gavasker received the largest cheer when he set out on a lap of honour. India's greatest batsman is now an icon. Plus, his influential column ensures that he is also a powerful moulder of public opinion

over 200 Classic Winners which is an incredible achievement. He has been

The crowd at the Eden Gardens forgave Azhar and gave him a standing ovation. He has now started talking to the press after a long silence

the first recipient of the Classic Racing Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by ITC.

But there was no problem in recognising the 17 (22 were invited) former Indian captains of the Post-Independence era who were felicitated by the BCCI during the interval. The lap of honour done by each captain on a flower bedecked car, holding a trophy and waving to the crowd, was a thrilling sight to see.

It was interesting to note the quality of the claps. Lala Amarnath and the rest of the earlier generation got respectful claps. But it was when Wadekar started on his round that the claps began to get louder. Bedi and Venkataraghavan got a good clap. But it reached a crescendo when Gavaskar set out. India's greatest batsman is now an icon. With his TV commentary and the incisive, lucid, well reasoned-out articles he writes these days, he is, also, a powerful moulder of public opinion. Kapil Dev and Azhar received the same intensity of clapping.

Are we at last learning to appreciate our former heroes? In retrospect, it was a brilliant idea. Congrats BCCI!

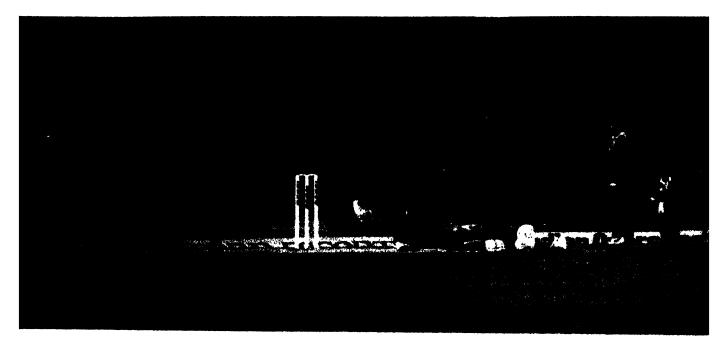
Here's a concluding vignette: about twenty minutes after the prize distribution ceremony was over, at midnight, I stepped out onto the hallowed Eden Gardens turf and looked around. The sight was amazing!

There was not a soul in the stadium. How quickly people had emptied the amphitheatre. The several tiers, the corporate boxes, the VIP enclosures in the club house, the PressBox....it was completely deserted. The only people around were three half-naked urchins rushing about between the seats picking up the empty plastic bottles for possible re-sale. Child labour is banned in theory, but not in practise.

Darling, yehi hai Indial

The sky was inky black; the silence, despite hours of excessive noise, was dealening. I felt quite unnerved...

It was time to go home.



FREEDOM....TO BE

from the Pepsi Independence Cup

(Top)

The heat is gonna get you. Rehul Dravid did not mind the accurate Pakistani bowlers or the baying fans, but he certainly could not handle the hot and humid weather. Cramps notwithstanding, Dravid scored 107, his maiden one-day century and salvaged some pride for India

You cannot keep this man down for long. When Sanath Jayasuriya is in a plundering mood, the best bowiers cannot contain him. He hit 151 n.o against India, 96 and 55 against Pakisten; it was these knocks that got him the Man-Of-The Series award and enabled Sri Lanks to win the Pepsi Independence Cup



E A U F O





Nirvena for any opposition fielding against India. When Tendulker departs, the rival team knows that they stand a chance. The Pakistanis at Chennai were no different

(Top'Right)

(Top Right)
With Doordarshan transmitting the Pepsi
Independence Cup nationwide, many thought
that it would be a flop since we are all now
used to the professionalism of the foreign
channels. But aided by WorldTel which
packed its commentary team with cricketing
legends (pictured here are Sir Gary Sobers, lar
Chappell and Ravi Shastri), Doordarshan
showed that it could also raise its standards

Krish Srikkanth certainly knows a thing or two of the pitch at Chennai, but even his tips and encouragement were not enough for Sachin Tendulkar and Co. against Pakistan



SRI



BRIEFS

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With his reputation and records preceding him, Shahid Afridi was a cricketer that everyone was on the lookout for. The handsome youngster had the fans, especially of the fairer sex, flocking to him throughout the

(Right)

With pressure weighing heavily on him, Saurav Ganguly has more than justified his inclusion in the team as an opening batsman and has managed to convince his fans that he means business

(Bottom Left)

All for a noble cause. The cricketing greats lan Chappel, Mark Mascarenhas of WorldTel, Sir Gary Sobers, Ravi Shastri and Tony Greig at a function where they auctioned autographed bats; the proceeds of which went to charity

(Bottom)

The Dennis Rodman of cricket? If there was one Kiwi the crowd flocked to see it was Heath Davis who certainly did not fit the general mould of a cricketer, but his sheer size kept away the over-enthuastic fans from going too near

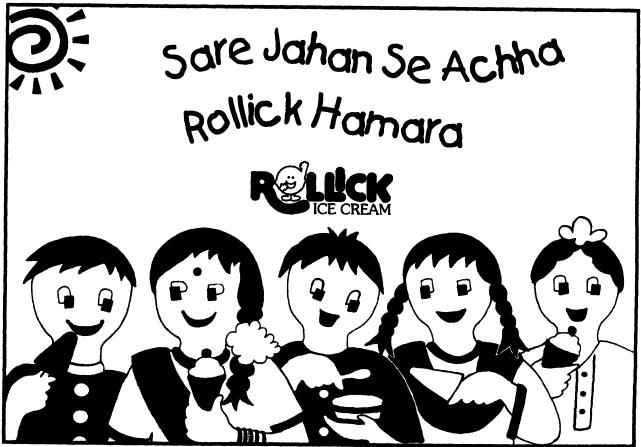
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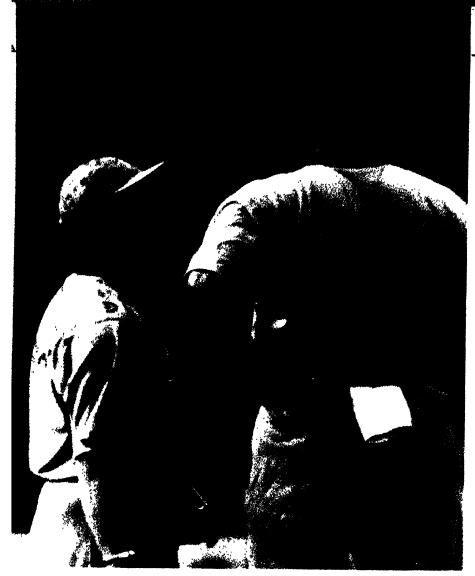








TAILIA TAR





He said he would let his bat do the talking, bu Vined Kambli will have to wait for some more time to do just that. The comeback man player a good knock in the match against Pakistan be the unpreparedness was evident

(Left)

'C'mon we can do it!', Tendulkar seems to be telling his strike bowler Venkatesh Prasad. But a tired and battle-scarred Prasad was definitely a shade or two slower than usual; the experienced batsmen made merry at his expense

(Bottom)

They turned out in hordes to cheer their home team, but being the knowledgeable crowd tha they are in Chennai, even a defeat by Pakistan was taken in the correct sporting spirit



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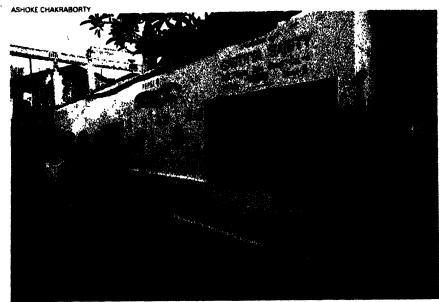


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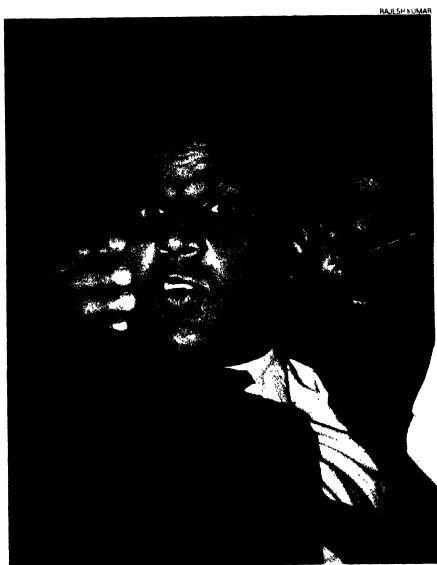
PHOTOFEATURE



The enthusiasm never wanes. Even if India did not make it to the finals, patrons of this club in Calcutta set up an impromptu scoreboard to keep abreast with the happenings in Mohali

(Bottom)

Welcome to the party: Saqlain Mushtaq seems to be telling Mohammad Hussain, the youngest member of the Pakistani team. By the looks of it Hussain certainly looks capable of going a long way



The New Zealanders came to India with little to prove. They scored a major upset when they defeated finalists Pakistan by 22 runs but they ran out of steem before an inspired Sachin Tendulkar



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FACTS AND FIGURES

Statistics of the Pepsi Independence Cup

CHAMPIONS: Sri Lanka RUNNERS-UP: Pakistan

Highest innings

339/4 (50): Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, Mohali

Lowest innings

162 (44.5): New Zealand vs Sri Lanka, Hyderabad

Highest aggregate in a match

619/15: Pakistan (327/5) vs India (292/10), Chennai

Highest individual innings

194 by Saeed Anwar: Pakistan vs India, Chennai

Best bewling

5/35 by Aagib Javed: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka, Gwalior

Century and four wickets in a match

Nathan Astle (117 and 4/44): New Zealand vs Pakistan, Mohali

4 victims in a match

Romesh Kaluwitharana (ct-2; st-2) Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, Hyderabad

Centuries

194 : Saeed Anwar (Pakistan) vs India, Chennai

151* : Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka) vs India, Mumbai

117: Nathan Astle (New Zealand) vs Pakistan, Mohali

117: Sachin Tendulkar (India) vs New Zealand, Bangalore

107: Rahul Dravid (India) vs Pakistan, Chennai

4 half-centuries in an innings

Jayasuriya (96), Atapattu (53), Aravinda De Silva (90), Ranatunga (80) (Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, Mohali)

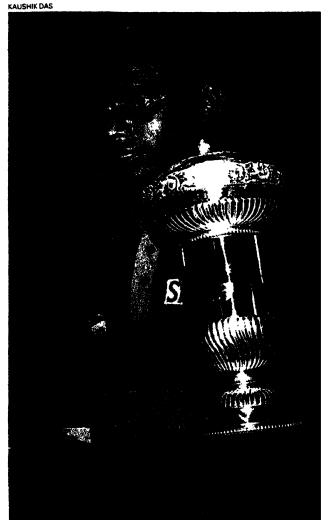
4 or more wickets in a match

5/35: Aaqib Javed (Pakistan) vs Sri Lanka, Gwalion

5/61: Aaqib Javed (Pakistan) vs India, Chennai

4/44: Nathan Astle (New Zealand) vs Pakistan, Mohali

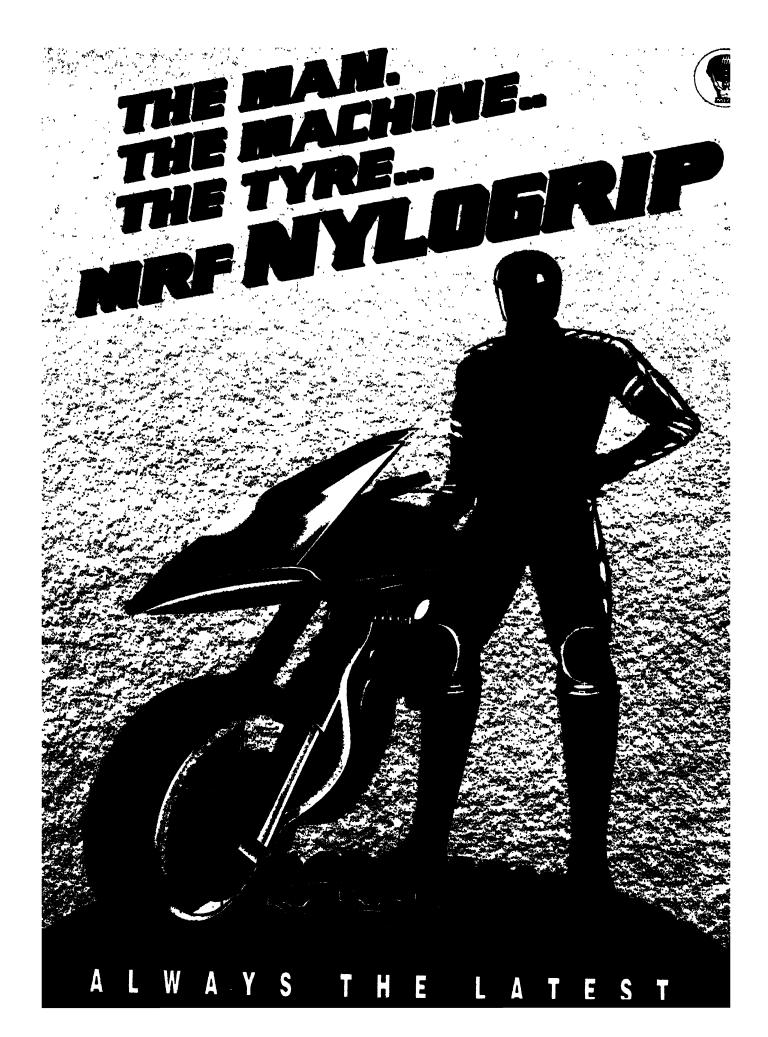
4/53: Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan) vs Sri Lanka, Calcutta



Senath Jayasuriya with the Man Of The Series Trophy

Top 8 Batsmen in the tournament

	M	inns	No	Runs	Avge	HS	100	50
Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri)	5	5	1	306	76.50	151*	1	2
Saeed Anwar (Pak)	5	5	0	267	53.40	194	1	0
Arjuna Ranatunga (Sri)	5	5	0	229	45.80	80	0	3
Nathan Astle (NZ)	3	3	0	218	· 72.66	117	ı	1
Rameez Raja (Pak)	5	5	0	200	40.00	76	0	1
Ijaz Ahmed (Pak)	5	5	0	196	39.20	55	0	2
Rahul Dravid (Ind)	. 3	3	1	189	94.50	107	1	1
Aravinda De Silva (Sri)	5	5	0	189	37.80	90	- 0	2



STATISTICS

Top 8 bowlers

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wickets	Avge	B.B	4 W
Saglain Mushtaq (Pak)	48.5	0	252	14	18.00	4/53	1
Sajeewa De Silva (Sri)	39	2	218	11	19.81	3/40	_
Aaqib Javed (Pak)	43	1	279	11	25.36	5/35	2
Nathan Astle (NZ)	23	1	106	7	15.14	4/44	1
M. Muralitharan (Sri)	46.5	2	213	7	30.42	3/40	_
Gavin Larsen (NZ)	27.3	3	115	6	19.16	3/43	_
Aravinda De Silva (Sri)	27	2	104	5	20.80	2/22	_
Chaminda Vaas (Sri)	33	6	147	5	29.40	2/13	_

★ Pakistan's Saeed Anwar achieved the feat of highest one-day score by cracking 194 against India at the Chidam-baram Stadium, Chennai on May 21, 1997. The previous highest was 189* by Viv Richards of the West Indies against England, Manchester on May 31, 1984.



Seqlein Mushtaq was the highest wicket-taker in the series





Wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana got feur viotims in Srl Lanka's group match against New Zeeland

The Pepsi Independence Cup

- ★ Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq became the quickest bowler to claim 100 wickets in one-day internationals vs Sri Lanka at Gwalior on May 12, 1997 in his 53rd match.
- ★ Aaqib Javed completed 150 wickets in his 135th one-day international when he got his 3rd wicket against Sri Lanka at Gwalior on May 12, 1997.
- ★ Sachin Tendulkar completed his 12th one-day century, scoring 117 against New Zealand at KSCA, Bangalore on May 14, 1997.
- ★ Sanath Jayasuriya scored his 4th one-day century as well as his highest innings. It is also the highest innings for Sri Lanka in O.D.I. He eclipsed compatriot Aravinda De Silva's 145.
- ★ Sri Lanka won five matches out of their last six encounters against Pakistan.

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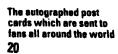


PHILIPS

IN SEARCH OF T

This is GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA'S absorbing account of how he went all the way to Bruhl, Germany to meet Steffi Graf

The village doesn't even have a railway station. Let alone an airport. Which means every time Steffi Graf iets to various parts of the globe, she has to cover a distance of 200 kms to board international flight





HE GOLDEN GIRL

HE 'Stern' magazine's tennis correspondent who had been so helpful, now had a discouraging tone in his voice: "Friend, you'll be wasting your time. She is big, big, big, big, by very big in her village! You will get nowhere near her."

The 'Der Spiegel' sports correspondent was equally unenthusiastic: "Even the German tennis scribes don't have an access to her these days (post the Peter Graf case). Even if they had, they wouldn't have dared to follow your example. You see, she values her privacy like a princess."

Thus, even before embarking upon a trip to this obscure German village, Bruhl, I was fully aware of what I would expect to encounter: intruding upon Steffi Graf's privacy would be slightly less difficult than returning her forehand crosscourt. That most probably, it would end up as a wild goose chase.

But then, even if you chase a wild goose, don't you experience something? The first revealing experience came from this startling discovery: the average German doesn't even know where Steffi Graf comes from?

We, in India, all know the answer is Bruhl; the average German also does. But what causes the confusion is that there are two Bruhls. One is near Cologne; the other is about two hundred kilometres away from Frankfurt. We are dealing with the second one. The interesting point is that both the Bruhl's don't figure on the German map.

Yes, the place where the golden girl comes from doesn't even figure in the German atlas. It is so relatively unknown. This sounds like Ripley's 'Believe it or not'. But read on for further unbelievable snippets of information.

The village doesn't even have a railway station. Let alone an airport. Which effectively means, every time Steffi wants to travel to various parts of the globe she has to firstly cover a distance of about two hundred kilometres by road to board an international flight. The nearest (domestic) airport is about hundred kilometres away in Karlsruhe. The nearest railway station is called Swatzinegan (where neo-Nazi posters now adorn the platform wall), is very dirty, going even by the Indian standard of cleanliness. For the first time during my German trip, I thought that



maybe now I was in Howrah or the Patna railway station.

To reach Bruhl, you have to either catch a bus or hire a car from the nearest railway station.

When I reached Bruhl, I realised that it is such a small village. I felt that in this sort of environment, my hopes of meeting Steffi were rather high. I realised two things immediately: (a) Someone coming all the way from India to meet a single person from this unknown place will most certainly be treated with undue warmth and affection. (b) The

The bust of Staffi Graf outside the Mayor's office in Bruhl

PHOTOGRAPHS GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA



The lower middle class house where the Grafs lived in many years ago. It has just three rooms

entire village has only one export: Steffi Graf.

Wherever you go, you can't avoid seeing pictures of her. The first restaurant I went into, had a huge picture of her next to the bar. I was told that Papa Graf entertained his special friends e.g. international agents, marketing people, sponsors, here.

"Peter is a lively down-to-earth guy. His only problem is booze. At times he doesn't have control. But he is a very kind-hearted man," the owner certifies.

"Does Steffi come here" I ask.

"How can she come now? It's out of the question. But a couple of years ago she did visit us. That's when this picture was taken," he answers with a tinge of pride.
Undoubtedly, there was a sense of possessiveness towards their world-famous girl-next door.

I forgot to mention it to you, but a guide was provided to me very kindly by the German

information department, based at Cologne. Thankfully, he was a die-hard Steffi Graf fan. You desperately require a guide in Bruhl because only the local lingo is spoken. A knowledge of English is of little use.

Through my guide's boss, we did manage to send in a request to the Mayor of Bruhl so that the latter could use his good offices to convince the elusive Ms Graf to speak to me.

But it hardly took any time to hear the inevitable bad news from the Mayor's secretary: Madam Graf is not exactly inclined to meet a press reporter. Irrespective of how many mountains and oceans he has crossed in trying 'only' to meet her.

From what I could gather, the Mayor's office is an extended part of the Graf household. They receive most of the fan mail and they reply on her behalf. They send out autographed picture post cards of Graf (see picture). The Mayor's office maintains all the clippings on Steffi; there are more than a dozen scrapbooks. These scrapbooks are in no way different from an average sportsman's personal album.

Some of the letters were quite interesting: A 83-year-old man from Australia wrote of how Steffi makes "the remaining time I have on this earth, meaningful. And when I finally go, I can go with the complete satisfaction that I did watch the greatest woman tennis player of all time."

A doctor from England has send a nasal drop, along with an explanation in a letter: "Every time you play the French Open, I can see you sneezing and having cough problems. I suggest this drop. Try it out, you'll have absolutely no problems."

Of course, there are also the usual 'I love you' and marriage proposal letters. On an average, eighty to hundred letters reach this office every day.

"How many of them are from India?" I ask.
The lady stumps me with the answer:
"India? I don't remember having seen a single letter till date."

On our way out of the office, I noticed a big marble statue of Steffi outside the Mayor's chamber. This was erected after her Seoul Olympic gold medal win. In Bruhl, civic receptions are accorded to her almost every year as she continues to win those great Grand Slams.

After we left the Mayor's office, we went towards our next destination: the Graf household. To reach her place, you have to cross the Steffi Graf Park. Also the tennis



One of the scraphoeks of Stoffi Graf in the Mayer's office. They have 12 scraphoeks like this

The entrance to Staffi Graf's palatial house. The trees completely ebscure the building from the road

centre where she first went to play as a four-year-old. Peter Graf, I was told, now owns this place. Next to that is a swimming pool. It is so tiny that without asking anybody you know a megastar wouldn't find it befitting her stature to use it. But where is the discotheque which she frequents with her boyfriend?

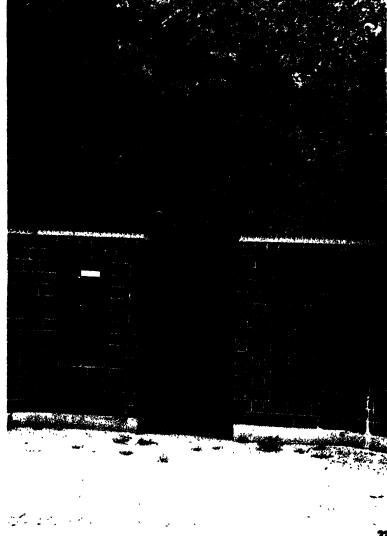
There are no discotheques in Bruhl, I was told. There is not even the standard departmental store in the village. This place is primitive, even by Third World standards. Boris Becker, her contemporary from Leimen, a neighbouring village, had long ago shifted away from his native place. Everyone said it was only too natural.

I wondered then why a millionaire like Steffi continued to live here?

My guide provided a clue with this answer: "That's Steffi for you. Her on-court personality is sharply in contrast to her off-the-court persona. Basically, she is a simple girl who is terribly shy."

I remembered that was exactly what the 'Stern' tennis correspondent had told me: Steffi feels safe and secure in her own locality. in a familiar environment. Where she is surrounded by her own people. The lure of a big city like New York or a tax-free haven like Monte Carlo might appeal to others but Steffi was the sort who would happily sacrifice all that for home comforts.

We were finally guided to her place. Anybody and everybody in Bruhl knows where she lives. Next to that is her



When I saw the house in which she was born, it was as middle class as anywhere I had seen. My guide corrected me. It was lower middle class, by German standards. These are government subsidised houses for the lowly paid

The business meeting room of the Steffi Graf Limited

well-decorated office (the company is named Steffi Graf Limited) where she regularly comes for business meetings, watches video recordings of her competitors' games and uses the lap top computer to plan out strategy. Reportedly, there is a big room inside which houses most of her trophies. This, of course, would be a photographer's delight, a reporter's version of nirvana.

But, tragically, you are not allowed to go in. There is a notice in German which hangs outside. My guide does the translation: 'If we're not expecting you, please do not bother us.' Plus the usual 'beware of dogs' alarm.

The lady who came out to answer our door bell tried to mislead us by saying Steffi was recuperating at her Heidelberg Penthouse. Undaunted, I said that I would try my luck there. Thereafter, she admitted Graf was only a few seconds away. But she wouldn't meet anyone.

"Could I be allowed to take some pictures inside the office and silently go away without bothering the star?" I say.

"No, you require an appointment," she firmly announced.

"How does one get an appointment?"
A phone and a fax number are promptly handed over, but I knew it would be of little use. I told her that I had been trying those

numbers for the past few days but had not got a response.

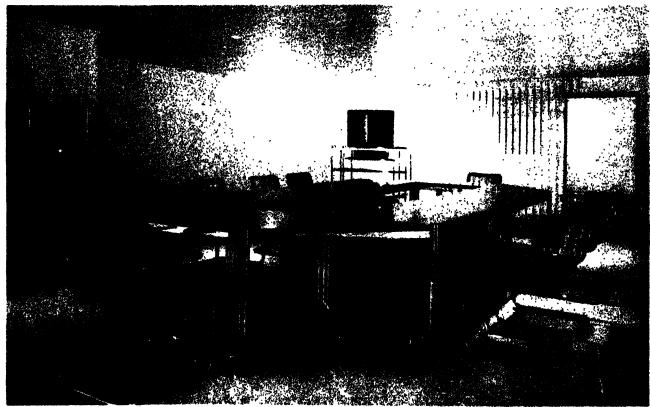
"We are in the midst of an important meeting," is all that she offered as an excuse. The fact that I had travelled eight thousand miles to see one individual cut no ice with her. I had to remain content taking pictures of her office taken from outside. Even to do this, I required permission.

What about a photograph of Steffi's home, you might ask?

Even with the most powerful telelens in the world, you stood no chance. The reason is that the house is just not visible from outside. Large trees completely masked the house from outside. I am told that it is so huge, it can easily accommodate a Taj Bengal or an Oberoi Grand Hotel and still have room for another palatial building.

To describe it as a fortress would be an understatement. There are no buildings opposite her estate. So you can't even make out where exactly is the house? How does it look like? What is the colour? I couldn't make out anything.

But German tabloid reporters got past this barrier. Two of them had once hired a helicopter and from there took pictures of Steffi having a bath outside her swimming





pool.

It had led to a major controversy. According to reports, security had now been beefed up at the Graf household. But we can't vouch for that. For the simple reason we were not in a helicopter and hovering above Graf's house!

By this time I was exasperated and disappointed. It was painful to finally come to terms with the fact that the search had proved futile. It was time for us to pack up.

But how could I leave Bruhl behind without having seen the birthplace of Steffi? I wanted to see the place which had housed one of the greatest champions in tennis history.

When I saw the house, it was as middle class, as you can get anywhere.

My guide corrected me. This was a lower middle class house, by German standards. These houses are called Rayenhouse. These are Government subsidised flats for the lowly paid. Peter Graf, a second hand car salesman and a club level tennis player, couldn't afford anything more luxurious. The house is now occupied by someone else who didn't want his privacy to be intruded upon.

All I could learn about the flat was this: there are only three small, rickety rooms inside. Obviously, one of the rooms was used for her initial practise lessons. Her father tied a string from one part of the room to another, to make a net. The four-year old child kept on hitting the ball above that. Every ball that was hit above the net letched her an ice cream, as promised by the father. The consistency with which the child kept on hitting the ball above the string left the father with no option but to raise the height of the string. But she continued to hit the ball above the string. Peter Graf himself narrated the story to me a few years back during the Wimbledon Championships in London.

Now standing outside this house, I had a peculiar leeling. I felt that at any moment, a four-year-old would come outside the house, saying, "Papa, Jet's go in for practice. I mustn't miss it."

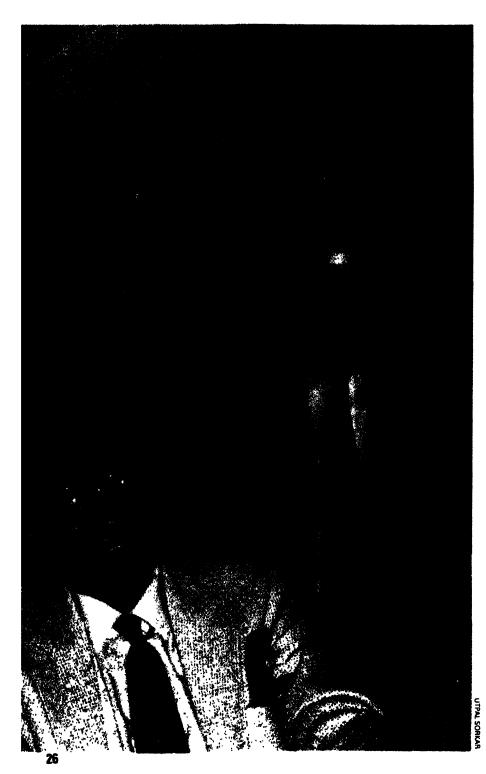
"From where to where," my guide kept on muttering on our way back. Having seen where she came from and where she now lived, he was reminded of the Virginia Slims advertisement: 'You've come a long way baby.'

I was thinking of something else. It wasn't a wild goose chase. It taught me the importance of that age-old saying:

'Champions are born, never made!'

This is the entrance to the office, which is just next to her house

BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER



Test cricket history is replete with instances of sons following in the footsteps of their illustrious fathers

BY GUL HAMEED BHATTI

HEN Shaun Pollock, the red-haired fast bowling son of another quick bowler Peter, made his debut on November 16, 1995 at Centurion Park in South Africa, he furnished the 32nd instance in Test history of a son following in the footsteps of his father. Since that day, Shaun Pollock has played in 10 Test matches for South Africa; his father appeared in 28

Here follows a list of some of the more famous cricketers who have followed in the footsteps of their fathers:

between 1961 and 1970.

- (Dr.) Jahangir Khan, prominent among the Muslim cricketers of undivided India, was a hard-hitting right-handed batsman and fast-medium bowler who played four Tests for India from 1932 to 1936. His son is a Pakistani superstar—none other than Majid Khan whose 63 Test appearances were made from 1964 to 1983. Currently, the Chief Executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Majid also captained Pakistan in three Tests in 1972-73.
- * Nawab (Iftikhar Ali Khan) of Pataudi, a fluent, right-handed stroke-player, played three Tests for England from 1932 to 1934, and later

Lala Amarnath with his son Mohinder. Lale's eldest son Surinder had also played for India

captained India in three Tests (against England) for his native country in 1946. His illustrious son Nawab (Mansur Ali Khan) of Pataudi, now known simply as Mansur Ali Khan, was a brave, vigorous and adventurous right-handed batsman, despite the loss of sight in one eye due to a car accident. He represented India in 46 Tests from 1961 to 1975, captaining his country in as many as 40 of them.

Nanik Amarnath, popularly known as 'Lala', was a delightful right-handed batsman and successful medium-pace bowler. He played in 24 Tests for India (15 as captain from 1947-53) from 1933-53. His son Mohinder Amarnath, a right-handed batsman and medium-pace bowler, appeared in 69 Test matches from 1969-88 while Surinder Amarnath, a left-handed batsman and two years older than Mohinder, played 10 Tests from 1975-79.

The great Sir Len Hutton of England, a strong right-handed batsman and captain also, played in 79 Test matches from 1937 to 1955. He led his team in 23 Tests, of which 11 were won and lost only four. His son Richard Hutton, a steady right-arm fast-medium bowler, in addition to being a powerful right-handed batsman, played five Tests, all in the summer of 1971.

New Zealander Walter Hadlee, a right-hander who frequently opened the batting, appeared in 11 Test matches from 1937 to 1951, captaining his country in eight Tests after World War II. His younger son, Sir (knighted in 1990) Richard Hadlee is perhaps the most famous of all Kiwi players, with an 86-Test career lasting from 1972 to 1990.

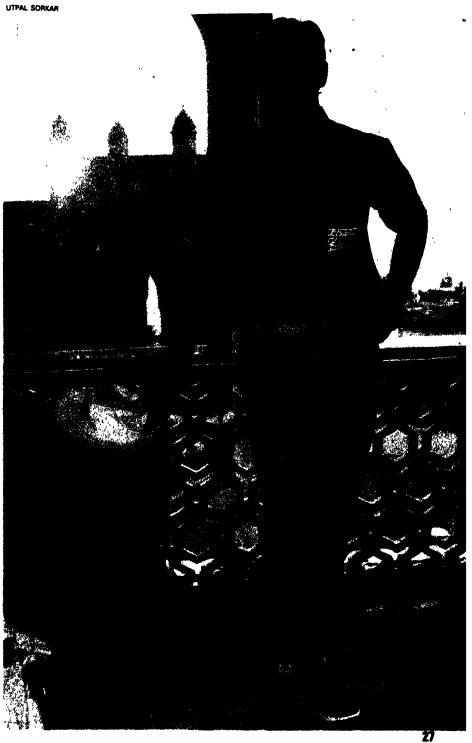
As a fast-medium bowler noted for his superb control of pace, swing and cut, he took 431 Test wickets, a record later bettered by India's Kapil Dev

If Walter Hedlee appeared for New Zeeland, so did his son Richard who went on to set a world record of claiming 431 Test scalps. Of course, Kapil Dev overtook that, to become the new recard holder

with a tally of 434. Dayle Robert Hadlee, some three years older than Richard and a right-arm fast-medium bowler, played 26 Tests for New Zealand from 1969 to 1978.

 William Anderson, a left-handed opening batsman, appeared in one Test match for New Zealand in 1945 and his son Robert Anderson, a right-handed opener, represented his country in nine Tests from 1976-78.

*The immortal Indian all-rounder Vinoo Mankad, a right-handed batsman and slow left-arm orthodox bowler, played in 44 Tests from 1946 to 1959. He also captained the country in six matches between 1954-59. His





Vijay Manjrokar (Inset) was a fine bateman.
But his son Sanjay who played for India flirted with inconsistency and has never been a regular in the teem

son Ashok Mankad, an accomplished right-handed batsman, made 22 Test

appearances from 1969-78.

- * John Lindsay, a neat, business-like wicketkeeper of South Africa, played three Tests in 1947 and his more famous son Denis Lindsay, an attacking right-handed stroke-maker and high-class wicket-keeper, appeared in 19 Tests from 1963-70.
- * Dattajirao Gaekwad, an efficient right-handed opening batsman, played in 11 Tests for India from 1952 to 1961. He also led his team in four matches in 1959. His son Anshuman Gaekwad, a gutsy right-handed batsman, had a 40-Test career spanning the years 1974 and 1985.
- * Nazar Muhammad of Pakistan, a right-handed opening batsman, appeared only in his country's first five Test matches in 1952-53 before an arm injury put an end to his cricketing career. His son Mudassar Nazar, also a right-handed opener but a very valuable right-arm medium-fast bowler too, played 76 Tests from 1976-89. Nazar and Mudassar remain the only father and son to have carried their bat through a completed Test innings; both did so against India: Nazar in 1952-53 and Mudassar in 1982-83, thirty years later.
- * Pankaj Roy, a determined right-handed opening batsman, played in 43 Tests for India from 1951-61, which included one as captain in 1959. His son Pranab Roy, also a right-handed opener, appeared in just two Tests, both in 1981-82.
 - A brilliantly gifted right-handed

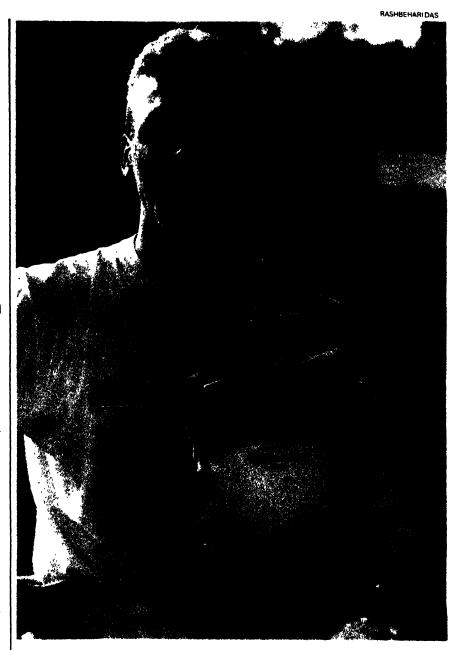
Alec Stewart like his father Micky has represented England with distinction

opening or middle-order batsman, Hanif Muhammad played in Pakistan's inaugural Test match-against India in Delhi in 1952—and then appeared in a total of 55 until his retirement in 1969. He also captained Pakistan in 11 Tests, from 1964-67. His son Shoaib Muhammad, also a right-handed opening batsman, remained a Pakistan player in 45 Tests from 1983-96. The father-son combination represented Pakistan in a combined total of exactly 100 Tests.

* Sir Colin Cowdrey was a prolific right-handed run-getter for England in 114 Test matches spanning a period of over 20 years, from 1954-75. Between the years 1959 and 1968, he also captained England in 27 Tests, winning eight and losing four.

His son Chris Cowdrey emerged as an attractive right-handed batsman and useful medium-pace bowler, but played in only six Tests from 1984-88, emulating his father when he led Figland in a Test match in 1988, a game that brought his short Test career to an end with a defeat.

- * Vijay Manjrekar was one of the finest batsmen to represent India; he was a correct, fluent, right-handed stroke-player, who played 55 Tests from 1951-65. His highly accomplished son Sanjay Manjrekar, also a right-hander, has had an erratic career as regards appearances. From 1987-97, he has played in 37 Tests for India.
- * Lance Cairns, a massively built and enthusiastic all-rounder, served New Zealand in 43 Tests from 1973-86 as a valuable late-order right-handed batsman with a penchant for hitting the ball very hard and a dangerous right-arm medium-pace inswing as well as a leg-cutting bowler. His son Chris Cairns is an all-round cricketer of high class, with the inswing his main weapon as a fast-medium bowler. Since 1989-90, Chris has appeared in 23 Tests. The son followed | wicketkeeper who has appeared in 63



his father into Test cricket four years after the latter had played in his last one.

* Michael 'Micky' Stewart was a neat and well-organised right-handed opening batsman who played for England in eight Tests from 1962-64 who, from 1986 to 1992 was also the manager of the England cricket team. His son Alec Stewart is a high class right-handed opening or one-down batsman and an efficient.

Tests for England since 1989-90. He also captained his country in two Tests, in 1992-93.

* Peter Pollock, a fair-haired fast bowler and more than useful right-handed batsman, had his Test career cut short by the ostracisation of South Africa from mainstream cricket in 1969. Since 1961, he had appeared in 28 Tests. His son Shaun Pollock, a gritty right-handed batsman in the lower order and a successful right-arm fast-medium bowler, has played in 10 Tests since his debut in 1995-96. COURTESY THE CRICKETER PAKISTAN

A FLASH IN THE PAN?

After his surprise win at Wimbledon last year this was a question that everyone asked about Richard Krajicek. The defending champion talks on a wide range of topics in this freewheeling interview with PAUL FEIN

You didn't just win Wimbledon. you overwhelmed the field and. whipped former champions Michael Stich and Pete Sampras in straight sets. How did you play so superbly during the fortnight? I really have no explanation. I know I can play that well for one match. But I played the last four matches at a very high level, against Stich and Sampras and then in the semifinal and final. Normally, like you said, I'm an up-and-down player in my career. But I'm also up and down in (individual) tournaments. I have a good match and then a bad match. It just happened. It was probably meant to be that I would win Wimbledon.

How well have you handled the glory and fame that came from winning the greatest tennis tournament in the world brought you?

If you look at my results afterwards, it hasn't been a nice time. But, yeah, I've enjoyed the glory. I'm the Wimbledon champion, and that's a nice thought. The biggest problem for me was to find a new dream after winning Wimbledon. My biggest dream had been to win a grand slam (tournament) and especially Wimbledon. After I did that, there was

Krajicek stunned everybody, including two former Wimbledon winners enroute to winning the '35 Wimbledon title

a little bit of an empty feeling. I really had a hard time going to the courts and feeling 100 per cent motivated. It took me about four months until the ATP Finals when I really felt that I was running on the court again and doing what I had to do in practice. But now I'm enjoying myself a lot. I wish I would have played after Wimbledon the way I've been playing the last couple of weeks, with the same intensity. But I have to accept that going through that stage—at least for me and my personality—is a part of winning Wimbledon.

You became the first Dutchman to capture a grand slam singles title. Are you a national hero in Holland?

I was for a while. My achievement was very big in Holland. It got a lot of attention in the press. Two months after I won (Wimbledon), I even got knighted. (Krajicek received a Royal distinction when he was named "Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw" by the name of the Queen.) I was also named an honorary member of the Dutch Tennis Association, and The Hague celebrated what I did. So it's nice to feel that I really meant something to Dutch sports history.

The headline of the story about you in the January-February 1997 International Tennis Weekly was in the form of a question: "A one-year flash or is he ready to move?" How would you answer that question?

In January I would not have been able to answer that question because I was just recovering from (knee) surgery.

But the way I've been progressing in the last couple of tournaments I really feel I'm back on the move and back being an aggressive player. I'm ready to make the next step. Now I feel very good about myself.

In 1993 you said, "Sometimes the pressure caused by people's high expectations of me is a problem." Has winning Wimbledon ended that problem or worsened it?

In the beginning after winning Wimbledon, it ended it. Because I achieved such a big dream, I somehow didn't feel the pressure anymore. So much pressure came out of my body. I hadn't realised how hard the pressure had been on me to win a grand slam. But after I won it, I felt so relieved and relaxed. I was on a cloud for two weeks. Nothing could bother me. absolutely nothing. I remember my first tournament (after Wimbledon) in Los Angeles. I was playing well and was very loose on the court. My opponent was protesting a bad line call. And I almost wanted to go up to him and say, "Oh, don't worry about it. Chill out." Then you have a

occasionally abandoned you at junior tournaments if you lost a match, while he drove home alone. You acknowledged: "I think he saw me as a kind of superman, the ideal son who could graduate (from school) and play tennis." Please tell me how his great expectations and that pressure affected you.

For the record, he never really abandoned me at tournaments. Sometimes he let me run the last part of the trip home. His expectations were very high. I really noticed it in my personality and also on the court. Sometimes in practice and in tournaments I was afraid to fail, afraid



Down but not out. Krajicek about to kiss the hallowed turf, moments after the umpire announced game, set and match Mr. Krajicek

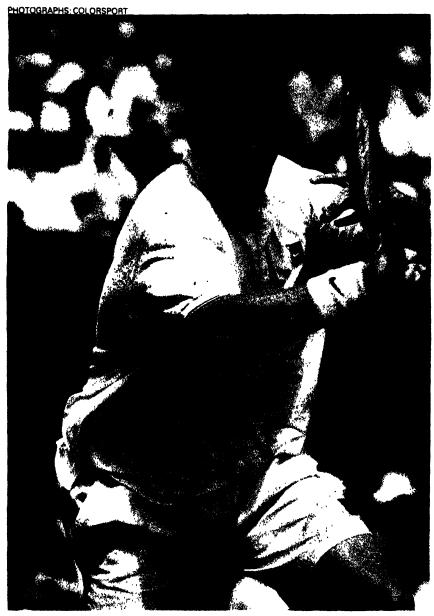
problem because you need (some) tension. Now I feel healthy pressure. I don't feel over-pressured because then you cannot perform. But you have to find a good, in-between balance.

Your father apparently had unrealistic expectations from you because he reportedly

to make mistakes. I'm better now but I can still get upset if I make mistakes in practice. Instead if I just do the right technique, then it will come by itself. But I've been taught so much not to make mistakes, and that puts a lot of pressure on me. I have to do everything right. I have to finish school, and I cannot make a mistake on the court. You really notice that it forms your personality.

Nobody is perfect.

Exactly. You can tell yourself that, but



still sometimes the other side of my personality comes out on the court because then there is extra pressure. Off the court I know nobody is perfect, but on the court you expect a lot from yourself, and sometimes you are unrealistic.

You also revealed, "I argued with him when I felt he was pushing me too hard." Thinking back to those days, do you resent or appreciate what your father did? I don't resent it. And I don't know if I really should appreciate it. I understand his intentions. I don't hold a grudge against my father at all 37

because everbody tries to make up for what they felt they missed in their life. And my father had the feeling that his parents didn't push him enough, so he said to himself, "OK, when I have a kid, I want him to feel that I have done everything for his sports (development)." OK, what he did worked out nicely now, but 20-20 hindsight is the easiest. It was his idea of raising a kid, and I just have to accept that.

Your girlfriend Daphne Deckers has a career of her own as a Dutch television presenter. How difficult and frustrating is it to be The first Dutchman to win a grand slem title, Krajicek suddenly found supertstardom thrust upon himself

separated from her so much?

Yeah, it's pretty difficult. But I have to say that we've been lucky. This year it's been pretty good. She's been to Key Biscayne (Lipton). But when you're away from each other a long time, it is difficult. You start to miss each other a lot. Especially the older you get. When you're young, you don't care. When I was 19, 20, I loved traveling—as long as possible and liked going as lar away as possible. I'm getting older now—I'm not over the hill—but you really notice that you like to have a nice social life.

Last year Daphne said that her relationship with you is so special because since you rarely see each other it's great when you do. Do you feel the same way?

That makes it a little bit more exciting, of course. (Laughter) But we'll see each other in a week or four days. If I forget, I'll get a slap on the hand. We've been together for three years, and the relationship has grown. It's not only because we see each other so rarely that makes it exciting. It's that the relationship is so good and solid. I'm really happy with her, and I want to spend the rest of my life with her. Now we know each other so well, and we know the ins and outs. That's a very nice feeling. Actually every day we learn something new about each other. It makes it more special.

Is marriage in the plan?

I think that in the long run we will get married. Now we talk a little bit about it, but there are no near-future plans. It will happen. I have to say I've changed. I've never been a big fan of marriage before. I don't think it makes a relationship better. A relationship is a relationship, and marriage doesn't change it. If there is anybody I will get married to, Daphne is, for sure, the one because I expect to spend a long time with her.

Joe Lynch, the ATP

Communications Manager, says you're known for your sharp wit and quick smile. How would you describe your personality?

I don't know if I have a quick smile, but sometimes I can be pretty quick with my answers. I'm very laid-back. I'm usually a listener and not a talker in conversations. When they first meet me, a lot of people think I am distant and reserved. But the people who know me well know that I am very loyal when they are loyal to me. I feel lucky with the relationships I have with my friends. I have three very good friends who I trust with everything, and they have never betrayed my trust. I feel fortunate because some people may have only one or even no friends like that. I'm not somebody who has hundreds of friends because I like quality instead of quantity.

Over the years you have suffered more than your share of injuries, but, overall, injuries seem to be greater than ever on the men's tour. What is causing this trend?

It's a combination of things. Especially this year I'm amazed how many injuries there have been already. Becker has wrist and thigh injuries. And Sampras and Kafelnikov are injured. And I came back from an operation. You have to listen to your body. That's the most important thing. Sampras is injured now, but he's never been injured much because he's one of those players who doesn't play too many tournaments. He always takes care of himself very well. Some people play 25 or 30 tournaments. I played 22 tournaments last year. The competition is really tough in every round, and if you play a couple of tournaments in a row on hardcourts, it can wear down your body. I'm cutting down my schedule next year to 17 or 18 tournaments. Otherwise, physically and motivation-wise, it's just too much.

You have publicly condemned laziness, whether it's people who

take advantage of the generous Dutch welfare state or students who booze rather than study. Please tell me about that.

I've said that, yeah. The Dutch welfare state is very good to people. I don't see the negative (side) anymore. I think it's good that you take care of your people. Holland is not like America, where if you lose your job for a couple of years, you really have a problem. You can end up living in the streets. I said my piece about certain issues, and I don't think I'll ever say it again. I said those things then out of youthful enthusiasm.

After Michael Stich outslugged Boris Becker in the 1991 Wimbledon final, where the ball was in play for only 9 minutes and 20 seconds of the total 2-hour, 33-minute court time, Stich commented: "I think high-powered rackets are destroying tennis and making it really boring. When you saw the matches that McEnroe and Connors played at Wimbledon, that was real tennis." Is too much power starting to ruin tennis? In a way, maybe you're right. There's a lot of power in tennis now, but you should remember where the power is coming from. Connors and McEnroe weren't really big, strong guys like many of the players today. I heard that

coming from. Connors and McEnroe weren't really big, strong guys like many of the players today. I heard that Philippoussis's serve with a wooden racket—he just did it for *Tennis Magazine* came pretty close (in miles per hour) to what he serves with a normal racket. So the guys are just stronger now, and they hit the ball harder. But what Stich said is true. In a way, it's fun to watch the old-time matches, and even before Connors and McEnroe played. Then some of the rallies were *unbelievable*. Yeah, it's nice to watch rallies, but power tennis is just the way it is now. Guys are stronger, and everybody is going for their shots much more.

You like to read Plato. The four great Greek virtues when Plato lived were justice, temperance, courage and wisdom. In your

opinion, which is the greatest of those virtues? And why?

For starters, what reporters wrote about that was exaggerated. I read one or two books about Plato and said his great ideas were interesting. They made it seem like I was a philosopher or a major in philosophy. All the virtues are important. Justice is the



In recent times Krajicek has managed to keep his injury-ravaged body in good shape and the results are evident in his rankings

most important because if there is no justice, people will feel robbed of their dignity. When they feel they are treated unfairly, society has problems Courage is also very important. When you have the courage to face everything and everybody, that gets you a long way in life. And when you have the courage to fight for justice, those are the two biggest keys for society.

GREAT STUFF

Saeed Anwar pulverised India with a recordbreaking 194 and entrenched his name firmly in the annals of cricket

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

T is a very fine line that divides the very good players from the great ones. It takes a lot more than sheer talent to make the

transition from a good player to a great player. Saeed Anwar who shattered the highest individual one-day score held by none other than Viv Richards, took six long years to metamorphosise into a 'great'.

Imran Khan, under whom Saeed MOHAMMAD SHAFIO



Anwar spent his formative years rates him very highly. "Along with Inzamam-ul-Haq, he is the most talented batsman in the team. He's a treat to watch --- a touch player, a beautiful timer of the ball." Imran had said in one of his summations of the Pakistan opener.

There has never been any doubt about Saeed Anwar's class ever since he arrived on the international scene in 1990-91, an eminently forgettable debut both in Test cricket as well as one-dayers not withstanding.

Three one-day hundreds in-a-row at the desert venue of Sharjah in 1993 earned him the titles of 'King of Sharjah' and 'Desert Rat' but he had not quite made his mark in the big bad world of Test matches.

Never a favourite of the Indians—Anwar seems to reserve his best for the arch-rivals - it should have come as no surprise when he chose to blast Sachin Tendulkar and Co. for his world record score of 194. That he chose to do it in the Independance Cup, and that too in front of a cricket loving Chennai crowd was what took everyone by

It has been a tendency amongst cricket scribes to shower accolades every time a player got a big score or bagged a handful of wickets. Anwar's case has been no different. The cricket fraternity has suddenly been brought out of its slumber and are acknowledging the Pakistani as one of the best openers in world cricket today. This phenomenon has happened before and is sure to repeat itself in the future.

For example take Brian Lara's case. It was only after he scored that epic 375, he was hailed as the best batsman in the world. According to Imran, talentwise there is little to choose between Lara, Sachin Tendulkar and Anwar.

Such is Anwar's grace that Imran had observed last year: "Not many batsmen can play a forward defensive stroke and the ball goes for a four.

Having stretched his reputation beyond all boundaries, Secod Anwer will now be the most talked-about personality in internation

Only time will tell whether he becomes a great player from a good one."

Anwar's 194 therefore needs to be viewed in its proper perspective. To put it in very simple terms, that one innings helped Anwar leap into the realms of greatness and certainly it was not the quantity which mattered. Nor the fact that no one in the history of the game had scored more runs in a one-dayer as he eclipsed Vivian Richards' 189.

What counted was the quality of the innings—the sheer range of his strokeplay, the sweetness of his timing and the precision of his placements. And the effortless ease with which he achieved all this only underlined his pedigree. His silken grace is often mistaken as laziness. Anwar simply has so much more time to play his shots that he makes batting look ridiculously easy when in top gear.

In fact, the innings against India not only highlighted this aspect, but also brought to the fore the very contrasting styles of the Pakistani openers Anwar and Shahid Afridi.

Afridi, young and untamed, is always looking to blast the bowlers away into oblivion. He hits the ball very hard and his methods are generally unorthodox. In short, he is the quintessential pinch-hitter. On the day he hits the ball, they stay hit. On the days he does not connect, the bowlers score.

Anwar, on the other hand, is like the perennial Indus, which flows merrily and is occasionally in spate. Such is his timing and placement that he never has to hit the ball in the air even in the first 15 overs when the fielders are in the circle. He just caresses the ball in between two fielders to fetch maximum results, with no (or minimum) risk. There was not a single false stroke during that 141-ball innings except for the one which prevented him from becoming the first player to score a double century in a limited overs game.

Yet, in that one over from Anil Kumble when he smacked the Indian leggie for three consecutive sixes and

THE TOP 10 ONE-DAY INDIVIDUAL SCORES

194	Saeed Anwar	VS	India, Chennal	1996-97
189 *	Viv Richards	VS	Eng, Manchester	1984
188 *	Gary Kirsten	VS	UAE, Rawalpindi	1995-96
181	Viv Richards	VS	Sri Lanka, Karachi	1987-88
175 *	Kapil Dev	VS	Zim, Tunbridge Wells	1983
171 *	Glenn Turner	VS	E. Africa, Birmingham	1975
169 *	Dave Callaghan	VS	NZ, Pretoria	1994-95
169	Brian Lara	VS	Sri Lanka, Sharjah	1995-96
167 *	Robin Smith	VS	Australia, Birmingham	1993
161	Andrew Hudson	VS	Holland, Rawalpindi	1995-96

Compiled by Ravi Kant Srivastava



Rowriting history: Anwar's 194, albeit with the help of a runner, erased King Viv Richards' record of 189 runs

a four, Anwar showed how destructive he could be. The shots may have been pre-determined, but all were copy book cricket shots and each was played with authority. Apart from the technical excellence of his knock, the innings was also a tribute to Anwar's mental forte.

Unlike most Pakistanis, Anwar is not very strong in the physical sense of the word. For someone who had just recovered from a viral fever which laid him low for four months and a bronchial attack which kept him out of circulation for another couple of months, Anwar's tenacity was admirable.

Any Indo-Pak game has its own

pressures. The harshness of a coastal summer with the mercury hovering in the 40's and the humidity in the 90's had only helped to turn the M.A.Chidambaram Stadium into a virtual pressure cooker.

A knee pain forced him to call in a runner, yet, he went about his task unperturbed, economising on his movements at the crease. It was as much a triumph of mind over matter, a superb advertisement of mental strength in adverse and testing conditions.

Saeed Anwar showed that it was possible to be elegant and successful even in the mad rush of limited overs cricket. The world of cricket is ready to welcome Anwar into the hall of fame.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Saeed Anwar.



THE MICHAEL JORDAN OF GOLF

OME June and worldwide attention will focus on the U.S.Open to be held at Bethesda, Maryland (USA). The most awesome talent to hit the golf course, Tiger Woods will be attempting to win this Open on his way to creating a historic Grand Slam in golf.

Whether Tiger Woods will be able to withstand the challenge and the enormous expectations that he has generated all over the world after the Masters win at Augusta, is to be seen. He will need an extraordinary calmness of mind to produce a sterling performance.

In Augusta, when Tiger Woods was asked whether he could do the Grand Slam, he replied confidently, "It can be done." Fellow pro Paul Azinger added, "The bigger the event, the higher he'll raise the bar. He's the Michael Jordan of golf."

Here's a flashback:

There was a pin-drop silence on the 18th fairway at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. Tiger Woods stood, wearing a bright red t-shirt and black trousers and stared at the hole. It was four feet away. He looked calm and relaxed. He practised a few soft swings with his golf club. He stepped to one side, stood behind the ball and gently tapped it. The ball went straight into the hole for par for a final round of 69. History had been made!

Tiger Woods had become the youngest winner of the Masters at the age of 21. He was the first black to do so; the first American-Asian to do so. His margin of victory, 12 strokes, was the biggest in 135 years. The mostly white crowd erupted in wild cheers...

Tiger Woods is the son of an African-American, Earl Woods, 64. a former

US Army 'Green Beret' Lieutenant-Colonel who served in Vietnam twice and a Thai woman, Kultida. Earl Woods also has Cherokee, Chinese and European blood in him. Perhaps the mixture of all these genes produced a player so gifted, mentally and physically.

Tiger got the drive and ambition to win from his father; the tranquility and calmness under pressure has been imbibed from his mother who is a fervent Buddhist. Incidentally, the name Tiger was bestowed on him because it was the nickname of a South Vietnamese soldier Nguyen Phong who saved Earl's life during the war.

When Tiger was a mere six months old, he sat on a high chair and watched his father practise his golf swing. At 10 months, he was hitting practice shots in the family garage. By the time he was eight, he was winning tournaments. He was three times the Junior Amateur champion; he won the US Amateur title an unprecedented—three years in a row. When he turned professional last year, after dropping out of Stanford University where he was studying economics, he won three of the first nine tournaments that he took part in.

He is blessed with enormous physical gifts—on the international circuit he is known as the player who hits the ball the hardest. But his father analyses his game in a different way: "Tiger has a creative mind that is so resourceful that he sees escape routes that aren't obvious to most players. That's why he is so dangerous. It's a play for him. It's not work. He loves it. He has been talking about winning the Masters from the time he was three years old. I just told him he'd have to grow up."

But during the course of his growing up, in

Come June. worldwide attention will focus on the U.S.Open. Golf's latest sensation **TIGER WOODS** would be aiming to win it, the second of four titles needed to set a historic **Grand Slam**

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

California, next to a golf course, Tiger Woods and his family encountered racism at every step of the way They were the only multi-racial family in an all-white neighbourhood, it was not easy living there He was also the only black child in his kindergarten class. He remembers older white children tying him to a tree and taunting him

As recently as three years ago, when Woods first took part in the Masters at Augusta, he received hate mail One of the letters dripped venom "Just what we don't need, another nigger in sports "

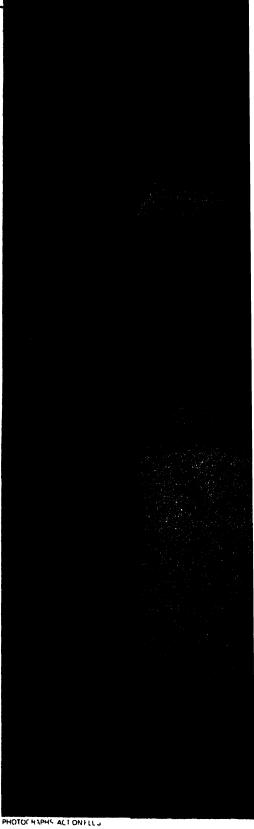
For us in India, we probably cannot imagine how deep is the racism that existed in American sport for so many decades and still does The founder of the Augusta Golf Club Clifford Roberts had once stated 'As long as I'm alive, golfers will be white and caddies will be black "With that sort of attitude, it was not surprising that the club allowed a black player, Lee Elder, to take part for the first time only in 1975 (The year Tiger was born) They admitted their first black member as recently as 1991

To think that within six years the club would have to crown a black champion was simply unimaginable By winning one of the game's most prestigious titles, Woods has dealt a body blow to racism in golf. For far too long, golf has been completely monopolised by middle-aged middle-class white corporate America

Lee Elder who watched Woods play at Augusta said that Tiger's win was equal to Jackie Robinson s achievement (Robinson was the first black to play in Major League baseball as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers fifty years ago)

'For a black golfer to win a major championship," Elder explained, 'it is just as high No one will turn their heads when a black man walks to the first tee. All black people are immensely proud and elated This is going to change things for minorities and young people everywhere Tiger is not only a fine player but he carries himself in an extremely dignified manner. This is something that will kill those stereotypes about us

South African player Gary Player saw a global impact in Tiger's win "Imagine the black people of Africa-400 million watching Tiger Woods win the Masters He can do more



to change golf than anyone in the history of the game. He is bringing young people into the game who never even thought about golf. young people from all corners of the globe

So where does Tiger Woods go from here?

All former and **CHITOIT Players** think he is one of the greatest players to grace the game. Jack Nicklaus who kas won six green jackets (an extraordinan achievement) says that Tiger can win ten of them



He is already a superstar with \$60 million in endorsement deals. All former and current players think he is one of the greatest players to grace the game. Jack Nicklaus, who has won six green jackets, (an extraordinary

The ever-smiling Woods is learning to handle the pressure

achievement), says that Tiger can win ten of them.

Tom Watson who has won every golf tournament except the PGA said: "Woods has what it takes to dominate the field. He has proven he is a winner. He is the type of player who comes along once in a millenium."

Yes, he is an 'once in a millenium' golfer. his game at the Master's was so mind numbing in its brilliance that commentators are already dividing the golfing world into B.W.(Before Woods) and A.W.(After Woods).

You can see how perceptions have clearly changed by the way British bookies have changed the odds on him. Three months ago, they offered 5000-1 odds on Woods winning the Master's. Then it went down to 750-1. Today, the odds are just 100-1 for Woods to notch up a Grand Slam this year. (A Grand Slam in golf: The Augusta Masters; the US Open; The British Open; The PGA Championships). That shows what a stunning impact he has had on international golf.

Tiger Woods is at present going through some heady times: worldwide fame; big bucks; superstardom. But he has to make sure that he keeps his feet firmly on the ground. As a pre-eminent black sportsman, he has to be a leader of his community, even though he is so young. Most great black sportsmen forget their heritage once they taste super success.

As former baseball great Hank Aaron said:
"Today black players make a lot of money and
move out of black areas. Their kids go to
private schools. They are surrounded by
white agents. They don't have a chance to
learn how they got where they are."

But from all indications, Tiger Woods seems to be made of different stuff. He has already stated in interviews that golf needs a shake-up: "Golf has shied away from this racist problem for far too long. Some clubs have brought in token changes. But nothing has really changed. I hope what I am doing can change all that."

Only time will tell whether Tiger Woods will live up to his determination to erase racism, apart from being a great golfer. In today's world of endless distractions, it is easy to get sidetracked by the wealth, the fame and the adulation.

Blacks will undoubtedly hope that Woods will live up to the epitaph on Jackie Robinson's tombstone: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other people's lives."

A HUNTING THEY WILL GO

The first professional club from Kerala, F. C. KOCHIN is all set to create waves in Indian football

HE birth of F.C.Kochin happened like this: Four NRIs of Kerala from the UK, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Oman came together to boost football in the State by giving financial backing for a Kochi-based football club: F.C. Kochin was born, as a result. Recently, the team has been renamed as the Kalyani Black Label-F.C.



Kochin because they have also got financial backing from United Breweries.

They have sunk nearly Rs.10 million for the project with the sole intention of uplifting the standard of

The F. C. Kochin team at the Maharaja's College ground. (Inset): P. V. Paul, the brain and the executive director of the newly-formed professional club



the game (which is decaying) in Kerala and to make a big dent in Indian football. The big prize money at stake in the National League and other lucrative takings expected in this sport have prompted the promoters to jump into the fray in a big way.

It is for the first time that a professional team in football has taken birth in Kerala. Now that F.C. Kochin has shown the way, two more clubs are taking shape on the same lines—one in Calicut and the other in Thiruvananthapuram.

The most essential part of a professional team are the players. The club has signed nine internationals who played for the leading clubs in India and abroad. Besides, they have five players who have represented the senior teams of Kerala and Karnataka, along with eight Kerala state juniors. Three foreigners have also been signed.

The club has taken on lease two



STOPPED ON THE STARTING-BLOCK

The AIFF prevented F.C.Kochin from taking part in Federation Cup...

THE entire football fraternity in India was hoping to see how F. C. Kochin would fare against the other teams in the on-going Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup at different venues. But the aficionados came in for a severe blow when F.C. Kochin team's nomination for the Fed Cup was rejected by the All India Football Federation.

The AIFF chief Priya Ranjan Das Munshi had, in early May, said that there was no controversy in the rejection. The reason was simple: the circular to state units had clearly pointed out that clubs should be recommended on the basis of their 1996-97 performances. Hence, F.C.Kochin's participation was rejected.

But being a star-studded team, the federation could have at least 'waived' the rule for the greater interest of Indian football. Even top officials in Kerala including the ever-influential T. O. Abdullah failed to persuade the AIFF to change its stand.

However, as per the Fifa guidelines, newly set up clubs can only be allowed to compete first in the lowest level league. F.C.Kochin can participate in other tournaments only if they are invited by the organisers. The Indian Football Association (I.F.A.) came to F. C. Kochin's rescue by inviting them in the recent McDowell tournament in Calcutta.

The grapevine has it that the AIFF will also go all out to scuttle all moves to allow F. C. Kochin to take part in the lucrative Philips National League in November.

That would do Indian football a real injustice, to say the least.

college grounds—Maharaja's College and S.H. College, Thevara—for practice. The Greater Cochin Development Authority pavilion at Maharaja's College grounds has been taken on rent on a long-term basis and would be utilised for the club's main activities.

Mr P.V.Paul, the brain and chief executive officer of the club said: "The basic idea is to bring back the players who have left Kerala for greener pastures outside the State. The club reflects the spirit of professionalism and we fervently want football to take root among the younger generation. Therefore, we have drawn up certain projects for the young, like popularising the game in schools and colleges through the involvement of idols like I.M.Vijayan and Chapman."

F.C.Kochin is being trained under the watchful eyes of former Kerala coach A.M.Sreedharan. A former seasoned player of EME,
Secunderabad from 1964-77,
Sreedharan said: "It is too early to talk about the team. The players are from different clubs and of different ages and so we have to amalgamate them to make them a potent strike force. It will take time. I don't think we can expect results overnight. However, I am confident that they will click after a few matches."

Hopefully, the next season will see the emergence of this new force which is expected to create waves in Indian football. They have the determination, perseverance and the grit to do well.

Way to go F.C.Kochin!

M.P.Suresh, Kochi



THE BIG CAT SPEAKS HIS MIND

Vest Indies

cricket manager, CLIVE LLOYD, is optimistic that the Windies will become a world class act once again

BY GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA, WEST INDIES

West Indies cricket, irrespective of the recent wins and losses is going through a transitional phase. How do you feel being a part of it?

Yes, the team is going through a rebuilding phase. We are striving to be a balanced outfit. We lost a number of senior cricketers of late and we need to fill in those gaps. You know that's hard work. We're trying to get new players, we're working with the best talent that we have.

But it will be hard work as a lot more cricket is being played these days. So many one day matches are being played. Cricket has become technologically rich. Tours take place every now and then. It has come to a stage where the team having the maximum reserves will be successful.

You prepared a very successful blueprint for the West Indies team of the Seventies and Eighties. To what extent has the preparation process changed?

It was different. To start with, we had a lot more time to think and plan. Take this Indian series. You could'nt have planned anything well in advance. Tours are so compact these days and almost back to back. I suspect, people are not being able to give off their best because of too much cricket. You have a lot more overs these days which means a longer playing time. There is also one day cricket between Test matches. It is hectic, far too hectic.

But, as you said, cricket has also become technologically rich. The managers can use laptops or see slow motion replays on video?

Oh yes, you can do that. But the problem is, you're busy playing all the time. Think of us. We finished playing in Australia which was a long tour. Then we were in the midst of this series against India. In between, people are busy playing Red Stripe Cup matches and now that the Indian series is over, we play Sri Lanka in two Tests and two one dayers. It is no surprise to me that a lot of people are breaking down. I mean, even cars break down and these are just human beings.

I feel, something has to be done about the schedule of international cricket. The authorities must look into it. The way cricket is being played, it's a bit too much.

Before accepting the post of cricket manager, did you give it a lot of thought? Because there is a possibility that all the good work you've done as the captain may be forgotten overnight for a failure in your capacity as the manager. Don't you run that great risk?

You see, I don't live in the past. Past is past. I have been asked to come and do a job, to take



"The team is going through a rebuilding phase. We are striving to be a balanced outfit. We lost a number of senior cricketers of late and to fill in those gaps....you know that's hard work."



RASHBEHARIDAS

Clive Lloyd snapped during one of his several visits to Calcutta

our cricket to where it had belonged in the past: at the top. And I will try my utmost.

That's how life should be. Nothing should be easy. You keep on setting goals and work hard towards achieving those goals. Our cricket is more or less okay, all we require is professional touches here and there.

Have you given yourself a time frame, within which if you don't succeed you will say, good bye and thank you gentlemen. It's time for me to leave? I have been given a three-year contract. I think, that provides me with enough opportunity to work with people, to get things together. To put things into place.

As the captain, the pace quartet formula you set had become legendary. But of late people are suggesting, it has become outdated. The Mark Taylors and the Colin Crofts have also voiced the same opinion. Do you think that blueprint has indeed failed to work in these times? See, the point is we didn't decide blindly on playing four fast bowlers. You'll have to play according to the situation that you're in. If you feel you'll benefit by playing a spinner, you play a spinner. If you see the wicket is not conducive to pace bowlers, you pick a spinner. During my time, there were four

outstanding fast bowlers so we played all of them. But now we're coming to a stage where I guess we'll have to review and re-think the entire formula. Ambrose and Walsh are not getting any younger. So, in the near future, if we find a good left-arm spinner who can be counted upon to get wickets we'll certainly induct him into the side. If you find people getting wickets regularly, spinners or pacers you play them.

But you seemed to have a bias against the spinners. I am only going by your autobiography where you mentioned your displeasure with the West Indian spinners. After they failed to stop India getting four hundred plus runs to snatch a dramatic victory at Port-of-Spain, you told them, 'Gentlemen I gave you so many runs. Yet you failed to register a win. Now as the captain I'm over and done with you' ... Now that gives one the impression that your honeymoon with spinners begins once again.

No, not that. Remember even in my time I had Roger Harper. We did play him. The point I'm trying to tell you is that you try and assess the situation you're in and decide.

During your time, you had a couple of superstars around in Vivian Richards or

"Our cricket is more or less okay, all we require is professional touches here and there"

a Michael Holding. Even your worst enemy will agree that you managed them pretty well. But you seem to be having a problem in managing Brian Lara?

That's not true. Well, we did have one little problem on the Australian tour but that was sorted out. He didn't make any hullaballo.

But there were statements in the press that you criticised his batting. You had said he needs to tighten his game, to play a long innings in Test cricket.

Yes, I said that to an Australian reporter.

But it's very unusual for a Clive Lloyd to do that. You've always resolved issues like that in the dressing room. Your coming out in the press only indicated that the situation was going completely out of hand?

No, no. I just wanted to convey a message. And look how magnificently he responded to the criticism by making 132. No,I don't have any problem with Lara.

Were you pleasantly surprised when the Indian batsmen surrendered so meekly on the last day of the Barbados Test match?

I won't say they surrendered meekly. Our bowlers also bowled pretty well. But I understand what you mean. 120 was highly gettable.

Did you find the Indian strategy of just sticking out there logical?

I thought, one or two of them should have gone on the offensive. Had anyone done that, Brian would have found it extremely difficult to set a field for the batsmen.

The think-tank in the West Indies cricket team is known as the 'management group'. Why do you call yourself the management group?

I just coined it keeping in mind that we will be around for three years. Malcolm and myself.

Malcolm is supposed to be the coach now. Where does your responsibilities begin and end, and vice versa?

Well, basically he is involved with the

technical aspects of the team, working with our fast bowlers, etc. and I look after the overall thing.

The moment you took over as the West Indies manager expectations rocketed. People felt that with 'your magic wand' you'd transform the side overnight. But that has not happened. Despite your win at Barbados, the Windies looks to be just an okay side. Why is that?

Look you can't change things overnight. It will take time. When I had formed my team of the Seventies, that had also taken time.

You also see new guys coming up in our team. Franklyn Rose for example. He is a tremendous find. Merv Dillon is also quite promising. So we have to be patient.

Fven Lara, who didn't share a particularly lovey-dovey relationship with his ex-managers and coaches went gaga over your sound planning especially the way you had planned for each Indian batsman at Barbados

Yes I've always done that. This is something I learnt at Lancashire. In county cricket, if you're the captain you have to plan very thoroughly and that includes planning for each batsman.

GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA

"Something has to be done about the schedule of international cricket. The authorities must look into it. The way cricket is being played, it's a bit too much."

Lloyd with Courtney Walsh during the India-West Indias series



A Day In The Life Of

ZAFAR IQBAI

BY NOVY KAPADIA

For the hockey star life now is entirely dedicated to his family and his job as a civil engineer. He has adjusted very well to the transition and is a contented man

N trendy quiz programmes these days, there is a popular question; "which international sportsperson contributes to the 'Wall Street Journal?" The answer is of course the incomparable Garry Kasparov, arguably the greatest chess player of all time. However if a quiz aficionado was asked about the only Indian Olympic captain to work as a qualified civil engineer, chances are not many would come up with the right answer. The individual's name happens to be Zafar Iqbal.

Zafar has achieved by the age of 40 years, what many people just dream about. He was captain of the Indian hockey team in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, 1982 Asian Games at Delhi, 1982 and 1983 Champions Trophy at Amsterdam and Karachi, respectively. From 1982-84 he was India's skipper. He played for India from 1977 to 1986. He signed off on a winning note, helping India win the gold medal at a four nation tournament in Dubai in 1986 playing against Pakistan, Holland and England. Wizard of the dribble, inside-left Mohammed Shahid was India's skipper in this four nation tournament.

From early 1993 till October 1994, Zafar was the national coach. Zafar's tenure was during a crucial phase of Indian hockey. Several stalwarts like Pargat Singh, Sukhjit Singh and Jagbir Singh had retired and initially some like Dhanraj Pıllay were suspended. Zafar by his quiet diplomacy and sensible coaching revived the fortunes of Indian hockey and ushered in a new era. So many new players, Rajnish Mishra, Anil Aldrin, Dilip Tirkey and Saboo Varkey were

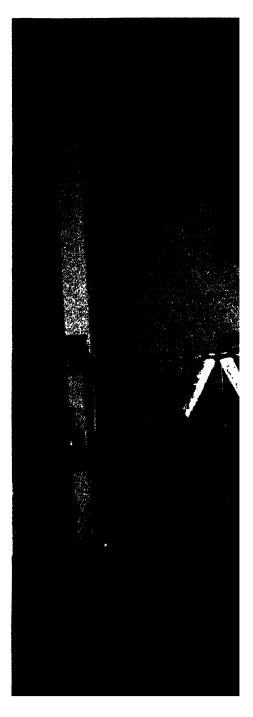
discovered during his reign. Now that his stint as hockey coach is over, Zafar is working overtime as Manager Engineering (Civil) for Indian Airlines.

Whatever he does, coaching the national hockey team or the Indian Airlines squad, or working as a civil engineer, Zafar brings a zest to his duty. He likes to live life to the full. Yet remarkably for a man who has achieved so much and is rated as a legend in Indian hockey, he remains remarkably humble, unassuming and approachable.

Zafar remains a glutton for work. His daily work schedule is exacting. He leaves for office by 8 a.m. in the morning. The grind then begins. Zafar spends the day poring over files, working out projects and has discussions with other officers. Zafar candidly admits, "Engineering has changed much during the two decades since I did my degree. After re-joining work as a full time engineer, I realised that there were lots of things I had to learn. So I spent a lot of time, getting tips and advice from other engineers."

Such is the pressure of his job, that on most evenings he works overtime. A family man to the core, Zafar likes relaxing with his children and wife Fauzia at home in the snug ground floor apartment at the Indian Airlines colony in Vasant Vihar, in South Delhi. In fact Zafar has contributed to the development of this housing complex. He successfully completed a Rs. 13 lakhs project which led to the

Age may have mellowed him but Zafar still rtains that zest for life and is very enthusiastic about his job and family



Zefar with wife Fauzia, daughter Samiya and son Yasir. Portrait of a happy family

development of spacious sports fields, recreation equipment like slides and see-saws for children and tennis courts in the sprawling Indian Airlines complex. The thoughtful Zafar initiated this project himself based on his observations of sports facilities in colonies abroad.

In the evening Zafar spends time







with his children. He likes to knock about on the tennis courts with his six year old daughter Samiya whose favourite sportspersons are Steffi Graf and Sachin Tendulkar. His eldest child, son Yasır who is ten years old enjoys playing cricket and tennis. His idols are Andre Agassi and Michael Slater. With a wry smile Zafar admits. "hockey players have no glamour." However he is happy that his daughter Samiya does play hockey occasionally.

Still conscious of his figure and not wanting to lose the 'battle of the bulge'. Zafar sometimes goes for a jog near his house. A connoisseur of food, Zafar says biryani and succulent kebabs are his favourite dishes. He knows all the famous eating places and cooks of Delhi, who excel in Mughlai food. Now realising that his

Fighting the battle of the bulge is a continuous process, and Zafar likes to knock about on the tennis courts with his children whenever time permits

life has become sedentary, Zafar tries to cut down on his mutton intake.

However his ultimate relaxation is watching TV. Guess what India's former hockey skipper and national coach likes to watch most on TV. "I love to watch European football on TV. It is fast, exciting and a treat to watch, real sport", says Zafar with a gleam in his eye.

During his playing days, Zafar spent a lot of time with his team-mates and also enjoyed discussing politics, with several local politicians. Now his priorities have changed and work as an engineer and his family takes precedence over everything else.

From his college days, Zafar has

lived life to the full. He studied civil engineering at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) from 1973-78. It was during those days that he launched his hockey career. It is interesting to note that Zalar started his career as an inside left for the Combined Universities in the 1976-77 Nationals at the Egmore Stadium, Madras. His stickwork and speed impressed the selectors and he was selected to represent India for a 4-Test series vs Holland. Kishen Lal, the 1948 London Olympic captain was the Indian coach and admiring Zafar's galloping speed he asked him to shift to playing outside left. Zafar says, "In the beginning. I had trouble in adjusting to this new position as my stepping was not correct, but once I adjusted and my reverse crosses started working I enjoyed playing as



outside left."

In his final year at college, Zafar was selected to represent India in the 4th World Cup at Buenos Aires. Zafar admits that he could combine his academic and sports career due to the remarkable help from his professors and the former Vice-Chancellor of AMU, Professor A.M.Khusroo. Zafar admits "He helped with attendance and allowed me special time to do practicals. I even got financial assistance."

Zafar comes from an academic family. His father Dr. Mohammed Shahbuddin Ahmed, was a professor of Chemistry at AMU. As a youngster Zafar took to hockey, watching youngsters playing in the lush green fields near his house. His interest and ability in his sport developed due to the timely intervention of a hockey

Once a career woman, Fauzia today spends her days looking after her children and running the house

lover who encouraged him to play hockey every evening. Though playing in crisp sherwanis and pyjamas, Professor Zillur Rehman had a passion for hockey and was committed to encouraging youngsters to excel in sport. As Zafar says, "Zillur sahab belonged to an earlier era, a person who strongly believed in a healthy body and an active mind and was involved with children. He did so much for my career. Till my third year as a civil engineering student, he used to guide me in my studies also."

In 1985, Zalar married a girl from AMU, Fauzia who also came from a scholarly family. Fauzia's father Dr.

M. Salim Siddiqui was a professor of Chemistry at AMU. Fauzia did her B.Sc. honours in Chemistry from AMU. She did a diploma in Computers and worked in Vayudoot Airlines in the commercial department. After the birth of their first child, Yasır, Fauzia gave up her career to look after the home. Now Fauzia is the epitome of efficiency at home and helps Yasir and Samiya with their homework.

Zafar Iqbal is growing old gracefully. Unlike many retired sportspersons, he does not live in the past or hanker for former glory. As he says, "I have now moved on to another phase in life, my work as a civil enginner, is a full time job which gives me a lot of contentment "Zalat, Fauzia, Yasır and Samiya are a happy and contented lamily and Zafat remains the perfect gentle knight.

ANDRE AGASSI and BROOKE SHIELDS come out of the St. John's church in Pebble Beach, California after exchanging wedding vows. They were married in front of 150 friends and family members. It was the first marriage for both of them. Shields, 31, and Agassi, 26, were engaged for two years before their marriage



Meek Surrender

HE Calypso tour is over.
India lost both the Test as well as the One-day series, both of which they should have won.

The Indian team showed lack of commitment, application and the determination to win. The opposition were surprised at the abject surrender of the Indians from a position of absolute strength.

The coach and the captain are to be squarely blamed for their inability to instill confidence and bring out the best from a talented batch of young players.

We have heard quite a number of times via Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri about the cricketing brain that Tendulkar possesses. We have not seen anything of it so far. What we have seen on the contrary, is a rigid and inflexible leader with fixed ideas, which has resulted in surprising team compositions, tactical lapses in field placings and inexplicable bowling changes.

SUPRIYO ROYCHOWDHURY, New Delhi.

interesting

HE statistics given in the article, 'Our sadly over-bowled bowlers" Sportsworld, 28 March) makes interesting reading. In a 12-month period. Srinath has played nine Tests and 37 one-dayers. That makes a total of 82 playing days. Assuming some Tests did not go the distance, the playing days can be rounded off to 80. Assuming also, that the Indian team was in the navilion as the batting side, for 20 days of the Tests, the actual number of bowling days works out to 60.

Some interesting averages emerge:

- I. He was involved in merch play, once in every 4.5 days, or less than 25% during the year (80/365).
- 2. He was involved in bewling, as part of the fielding side once in 6 days (60/365), or approximately once a week.
- 3. During the year or 60 bowling days, he has bowled 764.5 overs. Averaging 12.75 overs a day!
- 4. These 12.75 overs represent about one hour of workload during his 'working day'

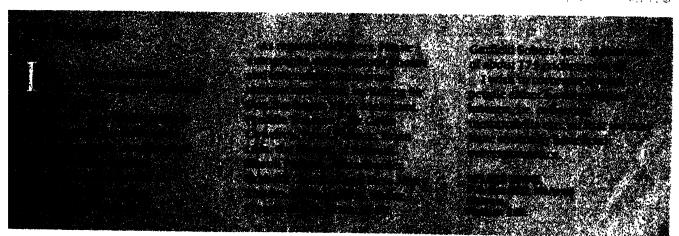
If this is being regarded as "sadly over bowled", could you let your readers know the kind of



average workload you deem as fair. It would perhaps be a nice comparison, to read of Allan Donald's workload, going back one year from the recently-concluded series against Australia.

Please don't get me wrong. I am an ardent admirer of Srinath and Prasad. But as they say cricket is a hard game, played with a hard bail, for which the players get highly paid. Injury is a part of the hazards of any game and no one is blaming Srinath for it. But please don't reduce sporting effort to a farce claiming that the above workload is excessive. Millions of people in this country would love to have this kind of workload averages!

COM.TEHMASP R. MOGUL Bangalore.





FOR YOUR BENEFIT, SIR

Indian tennis' most famous coach, AKHTAR ALI recently held a benefit tie

T was a terribly hot and humid afternoon in May. The sun was blazing fiercely. Yet, that did not prevent a sizeable amount of people to arrive at the Calcutta South Club for a benefit tie for Akhtar Ali.

Ali, clad in his trademark white t-shirt tucked into white shorts, bustled about, getting things organised. Ramesh Krishnan, along with Rico Piperno, started proceedings with a coaching clinic for

about 300 youngsters. Later,
Krishnan and Zeeshan Ali played a
few exhibition games which was
followed by a singles tie between
Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathy.
Then they teamed up to play a doubles
match against Zeeshan and Krishnan.
Finally, there was a pro-am
combination, with Leander
partnering Aveek Sarkar, the
editor-in-chief of the 'Ananda Bazar
Publications' versus Bhupathy and

UTPAL SORKAF

The pro-am combination: (From left) Leander Paes, Aveek Sarkar, Editor-in-chief, 'Ananda Bazar Publications', Akhtar Ali, police chief, S.I.S.Ahmed and Mahesh Bhupathy

police chief S.I.S. Ahmed.

It was an evening awash in memories. A lot of Akhtar Ali's former colleagues, wards and trainees had landed up. Naresh Kumar was there along with Jaideep Mukherjee. Premjit Lal arrived in a wheelchair. Former national champion Susan Das was there. Former footballer and South Club regular Chuni Goswami, superstar Baichung Bhutia and Indian football coach Syed Nayeemuddin were also present. (Nayeemuddin's two tennis-playing sons have been coached by Akhtar.)

There was warmth and affection for the evergreen coach; over the course of a three-decade long coaching career, he has produced several champions, including his son Zeeshan. He richly deserved this tribute. All the speeches—by Naresh Kumar, Jaideep Mukherjee, Ramesh Krishnan, Dr. Vece Paes, Leander, and M. J. Akbar, editor-in-chief, 'Asian Age'—were witty and interesting.

Here's a snippet from Naresh Kumar's talk: "Akhtar, Jaideep and Premjit were known as the 'Three Musketeers' of South Club. But when they lost, they were known as the



Bhupathy and Paes after the singles match they played against each other

Akhtar and Naresh Kumar exchange pleasantries



'Three Mosquitoes'.

The sun had set. The breeze started to blow across the courts. It became very pleasant. The one who was having the most fun was Leander Paes. (Incidentally, Leander-learnt his tennis at the South Club under Akhtar's younger brother Anwar's tutelage.) It really was a very fine gesture on Bhupathy and his part to take time off from their busy international schedule (they are ranked an incredible 13th on the ATP doubles rankings), to play for Akhtar 'Sir'.



THANK YOU 'SIR' AKHTAR

BY RAMESH KRISHNAN

If a succession with Akhtar goes back as far as my memory takes me.

If a mew bein then as Akhtar 'uncle', for he was a contemporary of statistics. All this was to change by the time I became 10 years old. I subject of the plant of the was the National Coach then. I felt statistics calling tim 'uncle', so I 'knighted' him 'Sir Akhtar!

At seas at this stage that we spent the most amount of time together. By 1978, I was selected to travel to Burope with the junior team and Akhtar accompanied us as the coach/manager. My education as a tennis player

The first stop was London. We needed to pick up our kit and to see some eligible assistant in action at Wimbledon. That was the first time I was seeing all the pig manter in action, for those were the days before the advent of TV. This was the last time my idol, Ken Rosewall, was to play at The Chapterion hips: Alchter was kind enough to delay our departure to delaying an that I could get a good look at him.

There was never a dull moment with Alchter around. Like when we want to do our laundry during this trip. We bought some detergent powder and kept scribbing and scrubbing with no lather in sight. Then, I looked at the packet and realised that we had bought 'soup' powder instead of 'sosp'.

My best Akhtar All story took place in 1977. We met in Delhi and he was togethe me to Paris for the French Junior Champtonships. Akhtar was employing a pouch containing our passports, tickets and enough foreign enchange for our European trip. After finishing all our check-in formalities, Aichtar felt the need to use the wath room. Suddenly, he realised that the pouch was missing and he was in a panic. He kept running around the airport frantically and I was watching him blisshilly unawane of the gravity of the situation. As it turned out, one of the airline agents was looking after it carefully but such was the shock to his body, mechanism that it took him a good week to recover fully.

One of the qualities I admired in Akhtar was that he was never shy to approach someone for a favour. Pancho Gonzales was once lounging arguing the Queen's Club: Akhtar went and dragged him out to play some semilipolith me. I can proudly say that I gof a serving lesson from the great Pancho. He has had an outstanding run as a coach of our Davis Cup team and the comming moments were when he helped is reach the final round the best 1966 and 1976.

always left that Akhsar was very kind to me because I was lift grant than a year and the post of the p

Akhtar Ali earned about Rs. 10 lakhs from advertisements and endorsements, including a personal contribution of Rs. 10,000 by Manik Goswami, secretary, BTA. He plans to use this money to set up the 'Akhtar Ali Trust Fund', for the development of tennis.

This is all very good. But his coaching career seems to be in some sort of a limbo.

Anup Singh Rashtrawar, chief coach of the Calcutta Gymkhana Club, who has himself produced several national age-group champions, articulated the underlying thoughts of most people in the tennis community: "Why is Akhtar Ali being so under-utilised? Neither the Bengal Tennis Association nor the All India Tennis Association are using him at all. He has such a vast



Zeeshan Ali in action during the benefit tie knowledge of the game. In Indian

knowledge of the game. In Indian tennis, there is no better coach than Akhtar Ali. I was his student, so I am talking from personal experience."

This is a question the powers-that-be in Indian tennis has to answer.

The one way that the nation can show its appreciation is to confer the long overdue Dronacharya Award for Indian tennis' greatest coach. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Is the Sports Minister listening? Shevlin Sebastian

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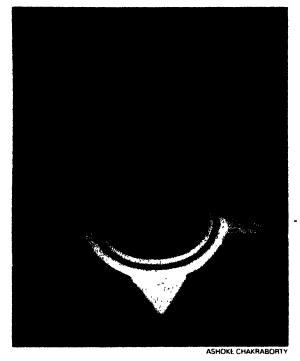
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NEW KID IN TOWN

SHAHID AFRIDI burst onto the international stage by scoring the fastest century in one day cricket. A year later, it is clear that he needs to brush up on his technique if he wants to have a really successful career

FTER watching Sandeep
Patil drive the first ball of
his Test career from Imran
Khan at Chepauk in 1979,
Sunil Gavaskar had observed in one of
his columns that "the debutant was
born to play Test cricket."

The same thing can be said about Shahid Afridi—he was born to play limited-overs cricket. One does not need the qualifications of the Little Master to say that.

Afridi maybe the new kid on the block, but he must work on his technique in order to be a man in the big bad world of international cricket. The subcontinent has never been short on talent. Selectors across the border have never hesitated to throw youngsters at the deep end of the pool because they were confident that they would swim back. Mushtaq Mohammed, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Saqlain Mushtaq, Afridi, Hassan Raza....the list is endless.

So when Afridi was pulled out of Pakistan's under-19 side touring the Caribbean following an SOS from the senior team management engaged in a four-nation meet in Kenya last year, it did not surprise many.

That he went on to score the fastest century in the history of one-day

Internationals, off just 37 balls, is now cricketing folklore. His hurricane knock had not only blown away Sri Lanka's challenge, but was ample revenge for the devastation caused by Sanath Jayasuriya at Pakistan's expense in Singapore last year. It also erased Jayasuriya's 48-ball record. Afridi was ready to take over the mantle of one-day king from the Sri Lankan.

However, since then, there have been only teasers from the 17-year-old wonderkid who has failed to whip up the same magic, and has time and again succumbed under pressure.

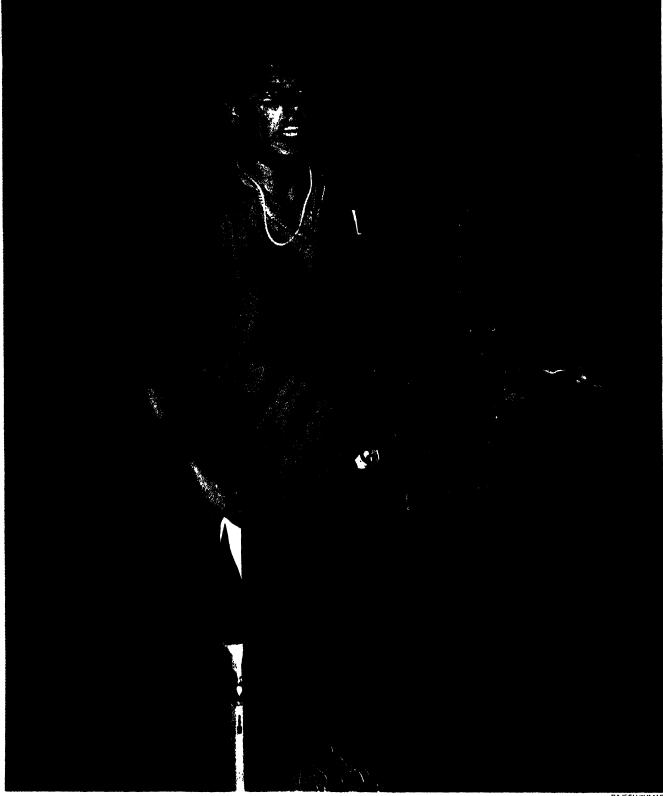
Since his hurricane century, the 17-year-old wonderkid has failed to whip up the same magic and has time and again succumbed under pressure

Getting 20 off seven deliveries or 35 off 20 may enable him to enhance his career strike-rate—a staggering 127—but it will not help his team's cause, especially if he is batting at the top of the order. He is youthful, naturally aggressive, has razor-sharp reflexes, a keen eye and uses raw power. When he hits the ball, they stay hit.

Afridi's problem is his lack of technique and consequently, the lack of footwork. He swings the bat like a pinch-hitter in baseball which gives his batting a rustic touch. A horizontal bat swung wildly will not yield the desired results nine times out of ten. Bowlers all over the world tend to sort batsmen out quickly in these days of videos and TV cameras.

When Majid Khan had stated in the early Seventies that he did not believe in footwork, purists at the MCC were aghast. Majid, of course, was a class apart. What he lacked in footwork, he made up with his technique.

But Afridi lacks both. He is not side-on even while playing forward and thus gives bowlers more than an even chance of getting him out lbw. But more than the batting, Afridi wants to improve on his bowling. He, along with fellow-spinners Saqlain and Mohammed Hussain sought out



RAJESH KUMAR

Bishan Bedi and asked for tips on the art of spin bowling from the maestro.

"Yes, I'm aware that slogging alone won't do. I have to try and learn to stay at the wicket," Afridi says with all seriousness.

Yet, when he connects with that wild swing of the bat, the ball travels many a mile. Often it has to be fetched

Afridi needs to work on his technique if he has to sustain his career. Although it is also a fact that when he gets going he is simply unstoppable

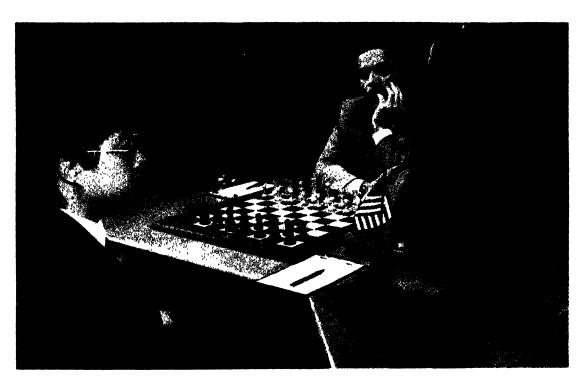
from the stands as fans go into a frenzy. His fizzy batting and quickish leg-spin makes him very much the quintessential one-day cricketer. His fan following has doubled in the last one year.

His debonair get-up means he is extremely popular with the fairer sex. Teenage girls swoon at his sight. Afridi, for all his technical drawbacks, is still a raging hit — a superstar at 17.

Sumit Mukherjee

MAN Vs THE MACHINE

DEEP BLUE defeated GARRY KASPAROV. But that does not mean that all is lost for mankind



FROM SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, LONDON

NSTEAD of being scared, we should be proud and happy that Machine at last has beaten Man at his own game.

This is not defeat, and certainly not the beginning of an apocalyptic time, when Machine would begin to take over the human world, become its invincible masters, and make man rue his own scientific genius.

Those who are scared are only looking at the two protagonists of this

historic duel, Deep Blue vs Garry Kasparov, in mere symbolic sense: Man overwhelmed by his own handiwork. But the truth is: this is certainly not the beginning of a Frankenstein era.

But there indeed are those who are scared. And it is not easy to allay their fears. To them, the game of chess itself and its masters have always been an unfathomable enigma. Some sort of an E=MC2. And now they can see a mere machine solving such mind blowing equations with remarkable ease, with a speed greater than his own. A machine cleverer than man is

Garry Kasparov playing Deep Blue in New York, Surprisingly, he showed signs of psychological frailty

a frightful phenomenon. A machine capable of outmanoeuvering even the world's greatest minds and quickest thinkers got to be apocalyptic, after all.

Most people believe that Garry Kasparov is the best chess player in recorded history. And here is a machine ready to erase that past, and threaten to create a new future where it will be supreme. So, what does the future hold for mankind? Well, at the end of the day, however, that future is

going to be fashioned by man himself. Because this machine, after all, is his own creation. Deep Blue may have triumphed over mankind's greatest talent; but by doing so, it has only proved that in the world of science there are minds capable of achieving tar greater things than Garry Kasparov could ever imagine.

So, mankind, don't lose your hope, don't lose your fighting spirit, as Kasparov did, inexplicably, when he faced a man-made brain, not supposed to be superior to the one created by God. Garry Kasparov indeed confessed at his post-defeat press conference: "I lost my fighting spirit." And this meek surrender proved all the more shocking because it came so closely on the heels of his gritty fight against the computer,

when he matched Deep Blue gambit for gambit. But that was only the beginning.

To those who worshipped the world's chess hero, his abrupt capitulation thereafter was almost cathartic, like the impact of a Greek tragedy, as pointed out by Monty Newborn, chairman of the chess championship, the man behind this historic battle. His defeat, his surrender was so incredible that far from praising the thinking computer, the most amazing thing on earth at the moment, some critics even questioned the bona fide of this duel. Some openly suggested that the

Grim faced, and stung by the loss, he has asked for a re-match. Will the result be any different?

match was rigged. "This was not a serious chess match," said US champion Lev Alburt, claiming that there are 100 Grandmasters in the world who could beat Deep Blue. To him, this was just a show.

The women's world champion Susan Polgar went even further. After Kasparov's unexpected capitulation, not only did she issue her own challenge to IBM to play against Deep Blue at some point in the future but suggested that "Garry Kasparov did not try his best," implying yet again that it was all fixed.

In fact, the speculation forced the IBM team to officially deny that there had been any wrongdoing, and their team leader C.J. Tan, the incredible computer creature, himself announced that the computer logs





would be published in appropriate journals in the near future. And there is no denying that the way Kasparov's game quickly deteriorated, it was difficult for the chess knowledgeable to believe that this man was really serious about winning. That he really cared that a defeat at the hands of this machine would dwarf his stature. That failure would hurt his pride.

Chess probably is the most ego-centric game in this world. And here we had the greatest chess champion in recorded history confessing nonchalantly, time and again that he was 'afraid'. 'Afraid'. 'Afraid'. 'Afraid'. Whatever happened to his superconfidence, his towering self-esteem that made him the most strongly-willed, unflappable, and unforgiving chess champion in the world? This was mysterious, wasn't it? Bewilderingly unexpected, just as the American Grandmaster Patrick

Kasparov, according to most Grandmasters, gave up far too easily against Deep Blue

Wolff so ruthlessly commented:
"What we have seen today is
psychological weakness of the sort I'd
never expect from him". And believe
it or not, some of Kasparov's own
supporters suggested that this was a
spectacle staged by IBM for the good
of IBM.

No doubt, that purpose, if true, was so spectacularly achieved.

It would indeed be difficult to fault Kasparov for his early game, which was risky, but robust, albeit a trifle too defiant for his style. But it was understandable because here he was facing a most unusual opponent, whose greatest forte was the speed of his thinking. And there were still a lot of opportunities for him to bring the game under his own control before he lost his Queen and his King stood

dangerously exposed. This was not the characteristic Kasparov, was it? So reckless, so frightened, so tense, so meek. So awe-stricken by this machine that never before did anyone hear a chess champ sing his opponent's praise so unabashedly.

"I am a human being. When I see something that is well beyond my understanding, I am afraid".

But you will be surprised to know that compared with most humans, Deep Blue is equated by the scientist who created it, who make no bones about the fact that despite his stunning powers of solving chess problems, Deep Blue is less intelligent than the stupidest person on earth.

If that sounds like a stupid statement to you, go and talk to one Murray Campbell, who played a parental role in the creation of Deep Blue, although the answers he will provide would make little sense to you. But as far as the scientists are concerned, the triumph of Deep Blue over Kasparov was more like a fluke than the deserving win of a superior being over a lesser mortal. So, where does all this leave us? Do we now stand trembling in fear that doomsday has arrived for the subjugation of mankind by superior machines, or rejoice that man has reached a level of scientific excellence where its stupidest machine can outwit his brightest mind. The pity is that its powers, its success did not transcend the realm of doubt simply because the man who was to take its ultimate test was not in the mood of playing at all. And that is why what really happened to our greatest chess hero remained such an unanswered question. Was he just tired? Was he shaken to learn that the opponent he was facing possessed the power to calculate 200 million potential chess moves per second? Or was this just a show of IBM, by IBM, for IBM?

The answer will only be found when Garry Kasparov stops apologising for his failure, and begin to live up to his vow that he would take revenge, sooner or later. After all, you cannot let a stupid machine reign over man forever.

READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

- During my heyday I was the heart throb of millions. I was also the first Indian cricketer to have been kissed on a cricket pitch. Who am I?
- Who was the first cricket captain to win all five tosses in a Test series?
- What was Indian captain Ajit Wadekar supposedly doing when India won the historic Oval Test in 1971?
- Which Indian cricketer was nicknamed Wanderer and what was the reason



behind the christening?

- Who is believed to have used the reverse sweep shot for the first time?
- What is the
 Australian
 equivalent for 'extras' in
 cricket?

Answer to Question No.10



- Who was the first batsman to wear a helmet in a Test match?
- Which Australian cricketer is often referred to as Billy The Kid?
- Who hit a century on debut in the Ranji, Duleep and Irani Trophies?
- Who is the only cricketer to have scored a double century in his first class debut and a century in his Test debut?
- Who is the youngest cricketer to have captured ten wickets in a Test match?

Answer to Question No.11

ANSWERS

- 1. Abbas Ali Baig.
- 2. M.A.K Pataudi.
- 3. Sleeping in the dressing room.
- 4. Vijay Manjrekar because he played for six different Ranji Trophy teams.
- 5. Mushtag Mohammed.
- 6. Sundries.
- 7. Graham Yallop.
- 8. Craig McDermott.
- 9. Sachin Tendulkar.
- 16. Gundappa Vishwanath.
- 11. Wasim Akram, who was only 18 years and 257 days, against New Zealand in '84-'85.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



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All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their ouiz.



A POPULAR MOVE

Motorsport in India is virtually non-existent, but a motocross held in the outskirts of Bangalore surprised the organisers and sponsors by the spectator interest it generated

OR the citizens of Hoskote
Municipality, the first
Sunday of May was a day
they will not forget in a
hurry. It was a day when a majority of
the sport lovers of this sleepy town,

BY GEORGE FRANCIS, CHENNAI

situated 30 kms away from Bangalore, got away from the normal drudgery and set off for the stadium for an experience of power and speed. That

many of them had never witnessed a motocross did not matter; over 10,000 spectators thronged the stands to watch riders from India and Sri Lanka compete against each other. It just went on to prove that motocross is

The roer of the finely tuned engines of these motocross bikes is sure to get the adrenalin pumping and the pulse racing

indeed a very spectator friendly sport.

It has been quite some time since an international motocross event took place in the southern part of India thanks to the ongoing tussle between the FMSCI (Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India) and the main sponsors like MRF and JK Tyres. This was the reason that prompted MRF to organise this motocross international. That they meant business was clear by the way they literally painted the town and the stadium red - MRF's official colour. The international flavour was provided by just eight Sri Lankan riders; many of them were astride the latest Japanese motocross bikes which led to some good competition and spectator participation

The crowd roared as the six classes of expertly tuned bikes rode moto after moto, while a truck carrying water wetted the dry tracks during intervals to keep the dust from flying and to hold the dirt bunds in place. As the competition went into the searing heat of the afternoon, the crowd clearly did not have its fill and was asking for more of motocross action, a clear indication that they had begun to like the sport.

The piece de resistance of the day, which had the pulse of the spectators racing, was the three races for the 250cc group A bikes. A ten lapper to begin the day, and another at the end, with a six lap sprint event thrown in between had the spectators enthralled. Jagtweer Singh, Shyam Kothari, Ashok Raja, Sanjay Mazda and Sanjay Gondkar from Pune, (the 'Mecca of Motocross in India') were challenging the eight riders from Sri Lanka. Zubin Patel was the new MRF rider, while Ananda Wedisinghe and his brother Udesh Wedisinghe along with the 15-year-old prodigy, Rakita Wijetunge were the major challengers The crowd participation (notice the packed stands in the background) proved hat motocross is a spectator friendly

from the Island Nation.

The long-haired Jagtweer Singh who spends half the year in Canada rode a Honda CR 125, and proved that international exposure did matter, as he swept the first 10 lap race, and the sprint, leading from the gate to the flag. Ananda Wedisinghe, the Sri Lankan rider, had to retire hurt after a fellow rider crashed into him. Talk of uncertainity and bad luck in sport.

Jagtweer who had been cruising till the final race did not even think that his race win would be denied, not because of bad riding, but because a starter was not good at his job.
Extremely confident after his
commanding victories in the initial
stages, Jagtweer was eyeing the
gates, concentration writ large on his
face. As the starter dropped the gates,
each one of the metal barriers except
Jagtweer's fell, and his front wheel got
stuck in the gates. He lost time but
more importantly his rhythm of
riding. He raced frantically thereafter
but skidded in the third lap and had to
15-year-old Rakita Wijetunge (centre) kept the
Sri Lanken flag flying high after he clinched the
victory against Zubin Patel (left) and Idesh
Wedesinge





pull out. Udesh Wedisinghe who hurt himself in a spill, managed to finish third.

If Jagtweer's exit was disappointing, a young prodigy from Sri Lanka called Rakita, and Zubin Patel of Pune (who has been offered sponsorship for motocross and rallying by MRF) made sure that the adrenalin was still flowing in the final race. Placed second to Jagtweer in the first moto & sprint event, Zubin decided to go all out in the final race on a factory prepared Suzuki RM 125.

Rakita who was literally inhaling the fumes from Zubin's exhaust waited for that one time chance and took it when it came his way. A fraction of a second's delay in the Pune lad's changing of gears in the second lap, saw Rakita overtaking on his Yamaha YZ 125 and then he rode like a man possessed.

The applause was deafening as Zubin once again tried to regain his lost supremacy. When Rakita cleared the last Camel jump turning on to the straight, and the table top on the home stretch, Zubin was literally touching Rakita's YZ 125's tail. While both the young turks raced towards the table top, Rakita lunged and his wheel touched the table top and thus won the race by the proverbial whisker. Zubin lost the Class I Championship by just one point to Rakita but both of them made sure that the crowds got their ticket's worth.

Jagtweer Singh who trains for six months in Canada every year, impressed everyone with his riding skills but was unfortunate not to wir

Rakita who rode a phenomenal race after he overtook Zubin in the second lap said, "I owe my victory to Shane Guruwardena who taught me the nuances of this sport". Shane, who was a fellow competitor seemed content in his disciple's victory. Vanquished Zubin Patel also praised Rakita saying, "The young lad is very good and the way he overtook me, proves his talent to fight to win."

Though the Class I races seemed to overshadow the other five classes, they also had their moments of glory. Shyam Kothari who has put in a lot of time compared to his town-mate Zubin Patel proved that he still had the mettle to win when he beat the young champion in a close race in the second moto for the Experts Class. Though both finished with 37 points, Shyam, who was second to Zubin in the first moto, by virtue of his win in the second moto, won the championship for Experts.

The MRF extravaganza at Hoskote was an eye-opener. The organizers and the sponsors were thrilled to find a full house. With gates at Rs. 15, Rs. 25, and Rs. 50, the Indian Motorcycle Sports Association and Karnataka Motor Sports Club, who ran the event, proved that motocross is a sport that could entice the masses.

As Rakita Wijetunge raised the Sri Lankan flag in celebration, it dawned upon everyone that the real victor of the day was the sport of motocross. With ace rider Shyam Kothari helping out MRF Tyres (his long time sponsor) in matters organisational there is a likelihood that all is not lost. Tony Rodricks, Corporate Advertisement Manager of MRF reiterated this when he said, "We are planning many more such events for the year." If rallying and racing have become politics-ridden, why not promote motocross, a cheaper and a very spectator friendly form of motorsport?

At least that will ensure that motorsport does not die a premature death in India due to the stepmotherly treatment doled out to it.







has been accused of being a wife-beater), his enduring image is that of a prankster. Picture shows him pulling off the track-suit pant of national teammate Paul Ince. The latter has no option but to inadvertently show his burn to the world

freewheeling

T was while watching a friendly international between Brazil and Mexico on 'ESPN' quite some time ago, I realised how lucky the young people living in India today are. They have a chance to see so much of world class sport on TV. Suppose you want to be a footballer, what greater inspiration and excitement can there be than to watch Brazil play a match at their sublime best?

When I was growing up, the only

learn: you can study the different moves, learn the various techniques, the tricks, the styles, the strategies. Your understanding of the game is deepened by some superb commentary accompanying the action.

Young people who want to be footballers or cricketers or golfers, or swimmers or tennis or snooker or table tennis or badminton players have no excuse. They see top class

COLORSPORT

International football matches telecast on satellite TV serve as inspiration for young, upcoming footballers

chance I had of seeing Brazil play on TV was in the World Cup. That happened once every four years. On dull Doordarshan, we rarely saw any world class sport. If we did, it was just once, or maybe, twice a week and that too in snippets.

How times have changed! Now, on satellite TV, every day, and sometimes, every few hours, you can see a full 90 minute world class football match. What lessons you can competition on TV all the time. When they go out for training, they should feel inspired enough to practise their guts out every day. Whenever they feel depressed, all they have to do is to switch on the TV and watch some international sport. Their spirits will be uplifted once again.

Hopefully, all this exposure to the foreign mind-set should enable new generations of sportsmen to abandon the defeatist mentality, the inferiority complex, the fumbling will to win, the tear of world class competition, the awe of white people, that has hamstrung our national sport till now.

Today, through sport, televised worldwide, we can show a large .international audience that we Indians are as talented and as good as the rest of the world. But, at this moment, in no sport, especially at the Olympic or World Championship level, have we come up with a performance that has elicited the admiration and envy of people from other countries. Even in cricket we are regarded as lambs, whenever we play abroad.

We live, sunk in our small petty world of politics and intrigue, consistently stifling people of talent.

Here's a joke:

Q. Why are crabs exported to Japan in tins that have no lids?

A. They are Indian crabs. They will fight each other and make sure that no one goes to the top.

Despite repeated humiliations in sporting arenas all around the world, the policy of intrigue and politicking has not changed. The same callous people rule our federations. They prefer to select people who stroke their egos rather than opt for those who have the talent.

Can we change this excellence-stifling attitude? Can we have administrators who are so intensely patriotic that they are only interested in pushing India to a world class level?

That depends very much on our young people. I hope they feel an outrage and then a fierce desire to raise our national standards from the horribly mediocre levels it is in. Our hope lies in the future, not with the present lot of sportsmen and administrators.

We need to regain our self esteem and international respect for our country. We need to stand up and be counted in the comity of nations. A situation must arise at competitions that when we say we are from India, it does not bring forth the usual snigger...

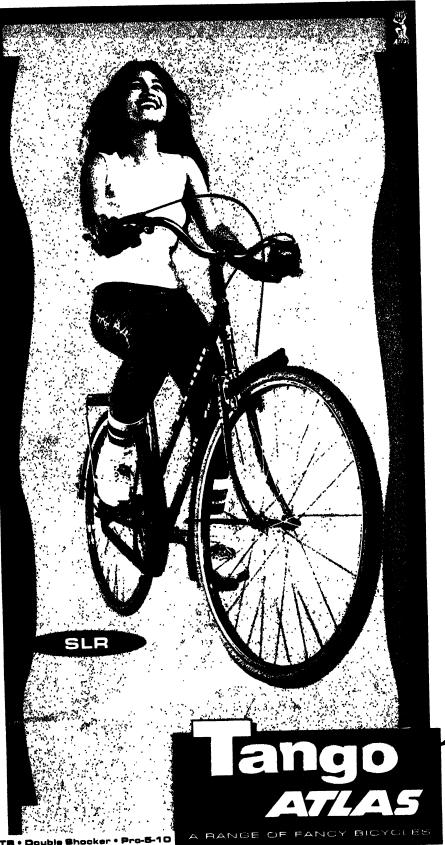
In short, can we become a great nation?

You, young man or woman, reading this, have to answer this question.

Shevlin Sebastian

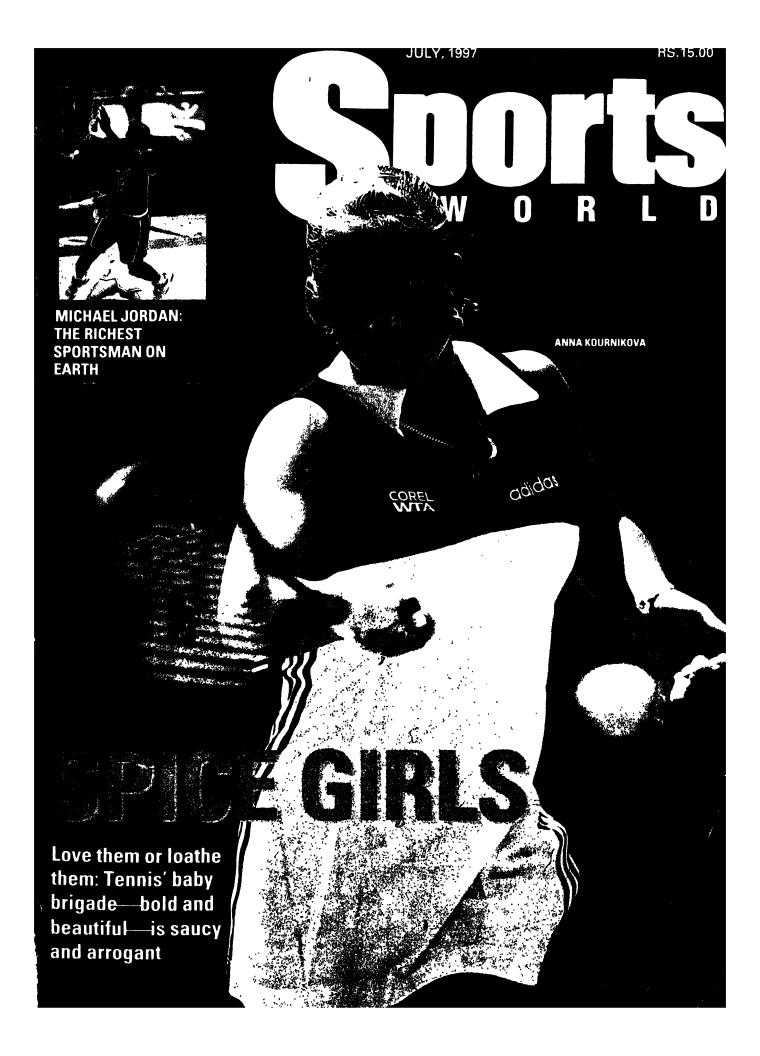


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FINALLY....

...there's hope. Mahesh
Bhupathi in becoming the first
Indian to win a Grand Slam title
could well herald the start of a
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Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF ANNA KOURNIKOVA BY ACTION PLUS

HIS ROYAL 'AIRNES'

MICHAEL 'AIR' JORDAN is the most famous and richest athlete on Planet Earth. With his fantastic skills, he has led the Chicago Bulls to an unprecedented fifth NBA title last month

BY ANDY O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA

HERE must be a strong argument that the Chicago Bulls be anointed the greatest team in the history of sport. Why? Simply because in the period that the Bulls have dominated, the NBA has emerged as a truly international competition.

From being America's domestic title, the NBA has effectively become an annual World Cup for a sport played in more than 200 countries and growing in popularity. And if the tournament has attracted the attention of the sporting world, the team that has won its fifth title in seven years, is perhaps the most popular sporting team in the globe. In Chicago, it is said that it is unfair to compare the Bulls to a religion, simply because very few people are as serious about religion.

Even three years ago (when this writer was present in Chicago for the World Cup of soccer) in the mornings, one witnessed people—black and white, grown men and little girls and old ladies with canes—all leaving their houses dressed in the same uniform—Jordan guernseys, Bulls jackets, Chicago caps. And mind you these folks were not wearing these outfits to a game, they were wearing them as they went about their daily business, at the factories, the shops, the schools.

If the Bulls are a religion in Chicago, then as blasphemous as it may sound, Michael Jordan is God. You see there's an inherent subjugation that comes when a person chooses to wear a piece of clothing with someone else's name on the back. They're ceding territory that is their's and adopting a

preferable identity.

Even the whites of Chicago—despite their inherent dislike for anyone with dark skin, a hatred that has been passed on from generation to generation—have embraced Jordan's ebony likeness as if he were one of their own.

At 34, it was thought that Jordan's best days were behind him. Often during mid-season games, he looked tired and pale. It was thought that he was ready to admit that even regal players grow old. Like never before, perhaps his legs ached and his lungs burned. Yet he played more minutes this season than he should have—the most he's played in the Nineties. Someone mentioned mid-season that maybe it would help if he didn't smoke those Cuban cigars in his car before games.

Jordan replied: "A lot of people are worried about my minutes, more than I am. I'm very aware of where I am this season and how I feel. I feel my output is very consistent. What goes without saying is that teams gear their whole defence towards me."

By the end of the season, Jordan was weaving such magic that the only people worried were the Utah Jazz and their fans. His match-winning performances in the final series—last moment three pointers, leading scorer while ill, etc.—squelched all whispers that said that MJ had lost some of his lustre; that he was exhausted and vulnerable. Some teams had even seemed to have deluded themselves into thinking Jordan was something other than what he is—the most wilful, charismatic, talented team athlete of the 20th century.

He's like a snowflake, showing something different, magical and wonderful every time

The nickname 'Air', comes from his ability to launch himself (as if against gravity) at the basket from metres away, carrying the ball through a forest of defensive arms, to somehow slam it home. He can do anything on a basketball court better than anybody else, leading the Bulls to three straight titles and two more over the last two years





he steps on to the court. If he hadn't retired two years ago for those 18 months in his quest to be a top baseball player, the Bulls would have been looking at their seventh consecutive NBA title instead of their fifth.

Such is Jordan's talent on court that his influence off it is equally unbelievable. At the time he was contemplating his return from that unexpected and unhappy brief retirement, the stock market value of five companies whose products Jordan endorses, jumped a cumulative \$2 billion in the three-day period of speculation.

Chicago's politicians recently asked Jordan to help calm their nervous city after a young black boy was beaten to pulp by three white teenagers in downtown Chicago. Normally, Jordan shies away from speaking out on social issues. Hall of Fame American footballer Jim Brown has savagely chastised Jordan for being an egocentric capitalist, angrily insisting that if Jordan expressed opinions on the problems that plague American cities, such as gun control and gang violence, "he could help change the world as we know it."

Usually Jordan stays quiet simply because he sees himself as an athlete and businessman and nothing more, but lately something has begun to compel him to do what he can to change his corner of the world.

Perhaps it was the thought of the posters on the injured black boy's walls—posters of Michael Jordan flying through the air like some sort of superman. Perhaps it was the knowledge that the three kids who allegedly attacked the young boy, kids from good Catholic schools, used to fight over who got to play Michael Jordan during their playground basketball games.

After one game against the Jazz, he opened his cheque book and wrote a considerable cheque to a fund set up for the injured boy. And he even asked his teammates to do the same. Then he did something even more effective and poignant. He opened his mouth. "All I can say is for Chicago to stay calm. There's no place for racism of any kind."

Jordan had spoken. There were no riots, the injured boy awoke from his coma; the thugs expressed remorse for their actions and the basketball courts in Chicago are again full of kids of all colours.

I know it would be stretching things a bit to say Jordan saved Chicago. Despite his ability to do things on the court that no person can completely duplicate, he's just a basketball player. He's not a saviour. Or is he? In front of Gate Four at the United Center in Chicago, there's a monstrous bronze statue of Jordan dunking over what looks like poor, pathetic figures burning in hell. The words on the statue goes like this: "THE BEST THERE EVER WAS. THE BEST THERE EVER WILL BE." And before almost every home game, you will inevitably find a few lost souls genuflecting and praying in front of the giant icon. They say that after last month's NBA finals, even non-Chicago residents and tourists will be doing the same.

JORDAN THE MAN

A FTER every game, Michael Jordan holds a ritual—he holds court with the media, win or lose, and no matter how much his feet feels like jelly. And long after Jordan has issued his decrees from the pulpit in his locker room, Jordan leaves the building, flanked by his usual swarm of bodyguards—six off-duty Chicago cops who are paid by the Bulls to travel with their franchise player wherever he goes.

They accompany him when he travels on his private plane; they escort him when he makes trips to the store to buy a carton of milk; they surround him as he leaves the court and heads for the change room.

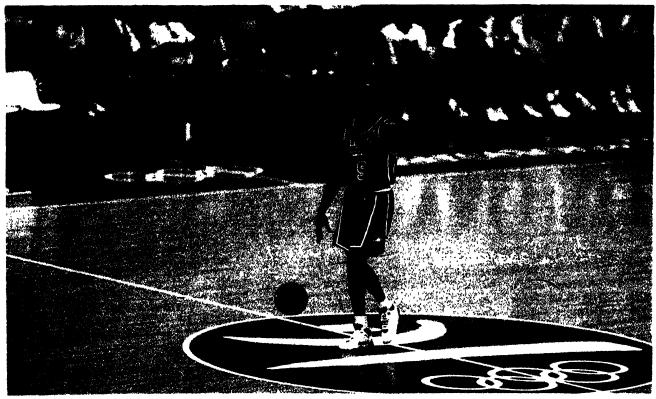
"There are a lot of nut cases out there who think they can become famous by shooting MJ," says Clarence Travis, one of Jordan's minders. At a game, Travis' eyes never stops moving back and forth, following not the game but the spectators, scanning the crowd for psychos.

"We'll tell him not to drive himself because some sniper will pick him off, but MJ doesn't always listen to us. He's got 13 cars, a few Ferraris, a Blazer, two Mercedes, a jeep, a Corvette, and I guess he ligures what's the use of having all these toys, if you can't play with them? MJ likes his independence."

You'd know the world's richest-ever athlete if you saw him because Michael Jordan or 'Air' as he is known, is a hard man to miss. Handsome, black, bald, and finely yet powerfully muscled, world sport's star attraction stands seven feet tall with a bank balance more than ten figures wide.

Michael Jordan is a phenomenon. A Nike spokesman once said, "He is as much a cultural influence as he is a sports person." Jordan's retirement from basketball in 1993 was voted the top sports story of the year in a





You'd know the world's richest-ever athlete if you saw him because Michael Jordan or 'Air' as he is known, is a hard man to miss. Handsome, black, bald, and finely yet powerfully muscled, world sport's star attraction stands seven feet tall with a bank balance more than ten figures wide

30-nation survey of reporters—even bigger than the stabbing of tennis player Monica Seles.

More than a decade as Nike's most advertised face means that he is the most popular and most recognised athlete on earth. (Jordan was discovered by the then young company, while still a freshman student, calmly slotting a last-second shot to win his university the NCAA title back in 1982).

Kids in Lapland probably move around in his No.23 Bulls' singlet, regardless of the ice and snow. Part of the reason for the adulation has been a career average of more than 32 flashy points per game. Jordan's nickname, 'Air', comes from his ability to launch himself (as if against gravity) at the basket from metres away, carrying the ball through a forest of defensive arms, to somehow slam it home. He can do anything on a basketball court better than anybody else, leading the Bulls to three straight titles and two more over the last two years.

His on-court deeds and plenty of smart marketing and merchandising have seen Jordan, 33, wear the crown as the world's top-paid sportsperson for much of this decade. 'Forbe's magazine', the most thorough and most accurate annual recorder of athletic earnings, lists Jordan as Numero Uno in the cash charts for 1995, 1994, 1993...and 1992. In 1994, the year he didn't play basketball at all, he led the Forbes money list with \$30.01 million. On his return last year, he made that much, plus \$13 million more... out of which only about \$5 million was his actual salary. The rest were endorsements (Nike, Gatorade, Wheaties and others). His Nike earnings alone are estimated at US\$20 million, enough by itself to place him eighth on the Forbes money list.

Jordan has never had any trouble coming to terms with his fortune. He lives with his wife and children in a massive Chicago mansion. He wears elegant suits and those expensive casual clothes which radiate wealth and comfort. He apparently has a habit of giving away telephone-number sized cheques in gambling debts.

But when you make as much money as Jordan, what's the problem of losing a million or so in dodgy bets now and again? For Jordan, his image is essential. He makes his money from being the down-home, regular guy who happens to be a breathtaking athlete.

"Quite frankly, we make a lot of money," he once said of big-time basketballers. "But some of us treat it (the game) like dirt." That's easy to do for anyone who is filthy rich.

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PHILIPS

N Olympic bronze for Leander Paes came as a bolt from the blue. And now, Mahesh Bhupathi has given the country its first ever Grand Slam trophy, courtesy the French Open mixed doubles championship. All this in a span of 10 months—and in a country which has borne some great tennis players who, unfortunately, have not been able to transform themselves into great champions.

Ramanathan Krishnan, arguably the most accomplished of them all, was in the penultimate round of Wimbledon two years on the trot. His son Ramesh went as far as the quarter finals twice at the US Open and once at Wimbledon. Vijay Amritraj made it to the last eight of a Grand Slam singles four times—twice each at Wimbledon and the US Open. More recently, Leander stormed into the semis of the US Open doubles, partnering Canadian Sebastian Lareau. Impressive results they may be on paper, but ineffective all the same. If you can't travel the distance, you will be branded a loser. And though losing is an integral part of any sport, the world salutes (and remembers) only winners. Time and time again, Indians have flirted with glory only to throw it away. So nakedly has the lack of killer-instinct been exposed over the years that the Indians have earned a name for being valiant, graceful losers. It is because the young Bhupathi has exploded this none-too-enviable theory that he deserves maximum kudos.

Of course, the skeptics will frown upon Bhupathi's 'achievement' and the purists will spend hours debating the true worth of the Bangalorean's triumph. And one can't really blame them for hesitating to applaud Bhupathi sincerely and spontaneously. Mixed doubles is, after all, the least glamorous of all tennis events, and has no place on the circuit but for the four Grand Slam championships. There are no ranking points, neither is the prize money as lucrative as in men's and ladies doubles. Bhupathi himself has gone on record saying that he turned down his Japanese partner Rika Hiraki's proposal to team up again at Wimbledon because he didn't want to be a mixed doubles specialist. It's all very simple to add up these arguments and devalue Bhupathi's cup of joy. But that would amount to being grossly unfair to a man who has broken new ground in Indian tennis.

A more minute look into the merits and demerits of Bhupathi's French conquest is the least one can do to get the proper perspective.

Mixed doubles may be the 'softest' tennis event, but by no means does it lack seriousness or competitive flavour. True, the Samprases, Beckers and Agassis don't compete in mixed doubles. But the Woodies, Navratilovas, Novotnas and Sanchez-Vicarios do. And so does a galaxy of successful doubles players like Jim

Pugh, Rick Leach, Jonathan Stark, Cyril Suk, Helena Sukova, Larisa Neiland, Natasha Zvereva and Lisa Raymond. To them, a mixed doubles title is no less precious than any other Grand Slam crown. The fact that Navratilova owns seven mixed doubles trophies (including three from Wimbledon), Woodforde, Woodbridge and Pugh five each, is conclusive evidence of how serious all these big stars are about mixed doubles. It isn't the top priority of any of these champions, but if they enter the competition, they desperately want to lift the trophy. It is, after all, part of Grand Slam glory and that itself is incentive enough to give it one's best shot.

Now in his third year as a pro. Bhupathi is still to find a foothold on the Tour. Like all 23-year-olds he has a dream: to make a mark in singles. So when he prefers a challenger in the second week of Wimbledon to an entry in mixed doubles, it just goes to show that the young Indian has his priorities right.

FINAL

...there's hope. MAHESH BHUPATHI in becoming the first Indian to win a Grand Slam title could well herald the start of a new era for Indian tennis

That brings us to a very relevant question: will Bhupathi ever reach a high level in singles on the ATP Tour? When Bhupathi broke into the Indian Davis Cup team rather dramatically as a 20-year-old, the Indian tennis fraternity was abuzz with excitement at the sight of a six-footer serving harder than any fellow-countryman and drilling impressive double-fisted returns. Ah, at last we have someone with the ammunition to do battle in this age of nuclear-powered serves, was the chorus all round the country. None missed the unmistakable flat-footedness, which meant that Bhupathi was quite a few paces slower on court than was necessary. Still, we

UTPAL





all thought that it was too insignificant a drawback and one which could be easily rectified.

One man disagreed with this assessment of India's new tennis hope: ITF coach Jacques Hervet, who had seen both Leander and Bhupathi from close quarters. "Big shots are essential but what is more important is mobility on court. You can make up for a lack in big serve with good movement, but not the other way round. Once you are into your 20s, it's easier to work on your serve and groundstrokes than your mobility," Hervet had observed two years ago during a Challenger in Mumbai. He had also remarked that Bhupathi would struggle to reach Leander's standards, at least in singles.

So far, the Frenchman's prediction has been spot on. Bhupathi's singles ranking has hovered around the 250-270 mark in the last two years while his doubles ranking, buoyed by a string of fabulous results with Leander, is in the high 50s.

Enrico Piperno, Bhupathi's current coach, doesn't think there's any cause for pessimism. "He is slow on court, but we have been working on that very hard and the results should soon show. I'm saying this because he's been playing some very good tennis of late, though he hasn't won too many singles matches", explained Rico, who guided him through the eventful fortnight at Ronald Garros. "One good thing about Mahesh is that he is a good learner. In their first match at the French, Hiraki was the better player as Mahesh was all at sea. ____ In the second round too, Mahesh struggled to get his bearings right. But thereafter, he got into a groove and played some delightful doubles, especially in the semis and final," Rico recalled.

ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY Time and again, Indians have flirted with glory only to throw it away. So nakedly has the lack of On court mobility is one aspect that Bhupathi has to improve on killer instinct been exposed over the years that the Indians have One factor which has prevented Bhupathi from earned a name for being valiant,

One factor which has prevented Bhupathi from breaking into the top-200 in singles is the over-emphasis on doubles at times. "Last year, I could have played a lot more singles in Challengers but preferred to enter the ATP Tour meets where I could get in directly into the doubles main draw (with Leander) but had to qualify for singles. This year, one of my aims has been to fix up my schedule in such a way that my singles is not neglected," Bhupathi remarked recently.

Well, that's easier said than done. Striking the right balance between singles and doubles will never be a simple task as long as the difference in ranking is a lot less than in Bhupathi's case (220). To be in the comfort zone, he should push his singles ranking up to somewhere around 150. If he sets that as the target for the next nine months or so, and gives singles top priority, he could hit the bull's eye. For all he requires are a couple of Challenger triumphs or two-three good weeks in Tour events.

graceful losers. It's because

young Bhupathi has exploded this

none-too-enviable theory that he

deserves maximum credit

Of course, the most important pre-requisite is self-belief. Just like the confidence he oozes in doubles. Bhupathi has to start thinking that he can do it in singles, too. Hopefully, the French Open mixed doubles triumph will act as a solid mental boost.

UNITED FRONT

That is what the cricketers want to put up in front of the Establishment as they go on to form a players, body to further their interests



BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

HEN international cricket's current captains meet at the International Cricket Council headquarters at the Lord's on July 11 to exchange views with the Establishment, they will try to impress upon the administrators the need to cut down on excessive cricket in order to prevent burnouts among players and prevent staleness creeping into this wonderful sport.

As the international cricket calendar gets more and more crowded, especially with the one-day variety, the cricketers are gradually feeling the heat.

Top players are complaining of mental and physical fatigue. A classic example was Richie Richardson who took a year-long break from the game to recharge his batteries. But, when the former West Indies skipper was ready to rejoin the action, he found, much to his dismay, that he fitted into the fast changing scenario of international cricket like a square

Richie Richardson got so stale that he took a sebbatical from the game, but found that he could not adjust to the rigorous demands of cricket on his return

patch in a round hole.

After a highly acrimonious World Cup last year, Richardson, the gentleman that he is, bowed out of the game gracefully.

In the past players from all over the world have been known to pick and choose countries they would tour with their team. There have been countless players who have backed

out from touring the subcontinent citing lack of proper facilities.

Unfortunately, these days players, who have a contractual agreement with their respective Boards, just cannot afford to pick and choose their tours. The message from the

Establishment is clear: You have to play if you are picked. Cricket being what it is nowada?—a multi-million dollar industry—the players too are willing to play ball. Consequently, the volume of cricket played all over the world has more than doubled in the last decade.

The guardians of the game discovered a golden goose in one-day cricket somewhere along the way. And, with television as an ally, they are busy filling the coffers of the Boards.

A direct fallout of the rise in volume of cricket has been the shortening of careers. Allan Borders and Kapil Devs are history. If poor form does not get you, injury will.

Fast bowlers are known to be injury-prone because of the nature of their job which requires a tremendous amount of physical fitness. But, non-stop cricket has brought cricketers practising various trades under the injury threat. This, as well as the perform-or-perish policy of the selectors has had an adverse effect of the average lifespan of an international cricketer which has shrunk alarmingly over the years. An average cricketer now cannot realistically look beyond a 10-year career. In fact, the senior (and even the not-too-senior) pros are known to take it season by season.

"The problem nowadays is that the game has become so competitive that you cannot afford to miss a single game. If you are unfortunate enough to do so, you are not sure when your next turn will come to get a look in. Unless, of course, you happen to be a Shane Warne or Sachin Tendulkar," Erapalli Prasanna observed recently.

For far too long the Establishment has turned a blind eye towards the predicament of the players who are the means used by the authorities to



Playing cricket throughout the year has led to a huge mental and physical strain on the players. Here Salim Malik gets some attention from his physic

meet their ends, read: mint money.

While the compulsions of cash cannot be ignored by either parties, there has been a growing concern among the players about the impending disaster. Basically, the panel of captains will be trying to convince the top brass of the ICC that there be a method to this madness.

In real terms it would mean a reduction in the number of one-dayers, more Test matches and an evenly spread out schedule. And, for

once, the ICC will be eager to oblige.
The last thing its new president, Mr.
Jagmohan Dalmiya wants is a
1977-like situation when one
Mr.Kerry Packer had split the cricketing fraternity.

History is replete with instances of revolt by individual players, but seldom have cricketers put up an united front against the might of the Establishment. And each time the Empire has successfully struck back, suppressing lone voices of dissent.

It required Packer's imagination and initiative to lure the players down the track, to borrow a cricketing parlance. For the first time top players from virtually every Test-playing nation joined hands and walked out on the Establishment. Packer called them the 'Big Boys'. However, the Indian big guns developed cold feet

ICC President Jagmohan Dalmiya and the Establishment will have some spft treading to do when discussing the players-demands



and kept out of the so-called circus.

For the first time the Establishment was at a loss as to how to tackle the problem. While crowds flocked to see the likes of Barry Richards meet the fire of Dennis Lillee, there were hardly any spectators at the official Test matches.

It took the bigwigs of the Establishment two years to swallow their pride and sue for truce and the prodigals returned to the fold. Cricketers all over the world benefited





in the form of higher payments and better facilities.

Since then there still were odd voices of dissent but it hardly caused a ripple.

The Indian Board acted quite firmly and ruthlessly to quell a players' uprising in 1989-90 by playing up the junior players against the seniors, successfully shattering their so-called unity.

The Lankan Board did an encore when it sacked a host of senior cricketers on grounds of fitness, or rather the lack of it. It required one disastrous tournament to bury ego problems.

Pakistan cricketers seem to be always at loggerheads with the

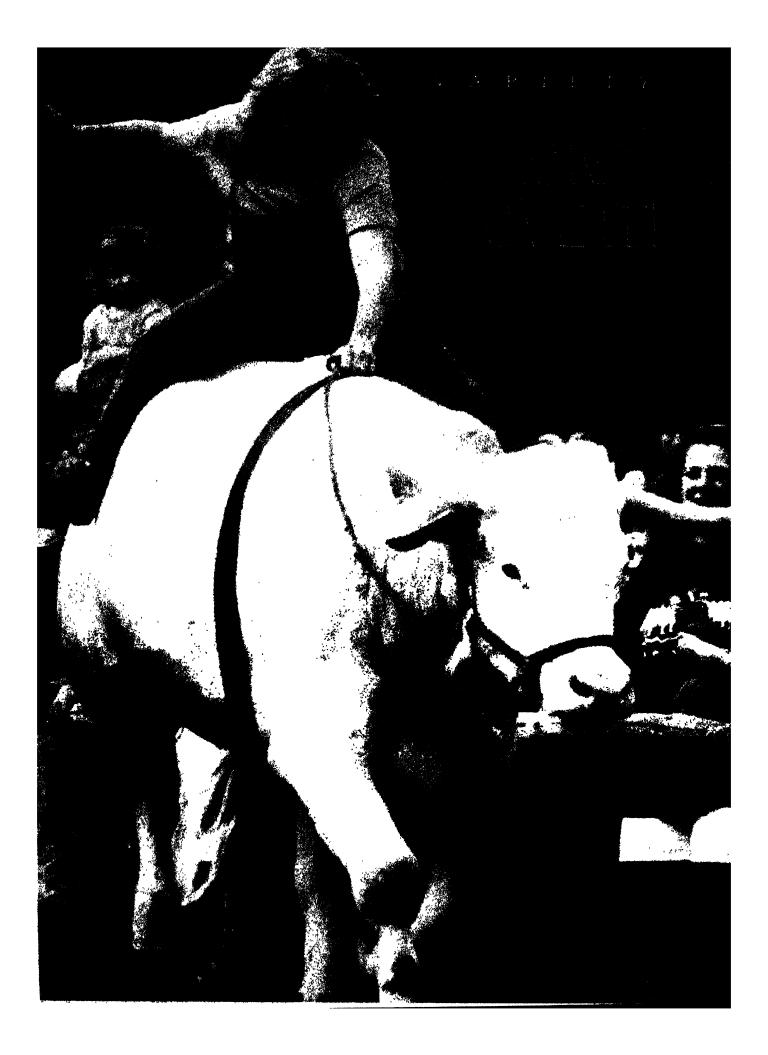
Fast bowlers are the first to feet the pressure in today's intense competition and this has cut down their career span. Craig McDermott was no exception and succumbed to injuries and younger bowlers

Establishment—when they are not fighting among themselves.

Aamer Sohail is the latest rebel in the Pakistan ranks apparently without a cause. Manoj Prabhakar has matched him quote for quote, only, unlike Sohail, he is well and truly retired.

It remains to be seen how successful the world body of cricketers will be in the long run. But, like in football a beginning at last has been made.

It is up to the cricketers really to make it as powerful as the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), or let it fade into history as a footnote.





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SPICE GIRL

Tennis' new baby brigade is bold, brash and beautiful.

Their credo: why let your racket do all the talking when a tart tongue can deliver much more delicious devastation

BY PAUL FEIN

those with an attitude. Tennis' new baby brigade is bold, brash and beautiful. Sugar and spice and everything nice, they're not. Their credo: why let your racket do all the talking when a tart tongue can deliver much more delicious devastation

Cheeky Martina Hingis, the Can't-Miss Swiss, is No. 1 in the rankings but not among some of her peers who resent her arrogance and narcissism. When asked what becoming the youngest winner of a Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open, meant to her, 16-year-old Hingis replied, "It's just another record for me. I mean, I have so many records already." When Hingis was compared with golf's new superstar, she shot back, "I think I'm even better than Tiger Woods."

Cocksure black American Venus Starr Williams insists she'll dethrone Hingis and then face her toughest competition: from her super-athletic sister Serena. She even crows, "I could go beyond No. I because there are times when an athlete is just ahead of the rest of the league. That could be me. It's like Michael Jordan and the rest of the players in the NBA. He was a step ahead of everyone else. With the way I play and my height and aggressiveness and courage and no fear, I could change the game."

But the undisputed queen bitch of the brat pack is Anna Kournikova. After the older and more advanced Hingis embarrassed Kournikova 6-0, 6-0 at the 1994 Junior U.S. Open, the Russian reportedly told her: "You won, but I'm prettier and more marketable than you." Round 1 in post-match repartee to Special K!

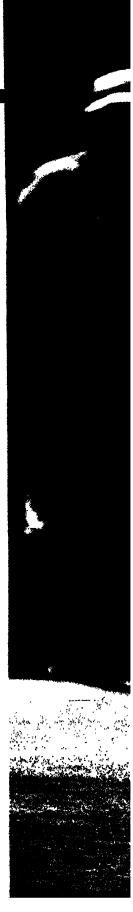
Bad as she wants to be,"Anna is a goddamn Dennis Rodman all over again," says her noted coach, Nick Bollettieri. "She's a very individualistic girl who is accountable only to herself. Like Rodman, she isn't outwardly concerned about the world and does whatever she wants to do."

Not since teen rebel Andre Agassi, has Bollettieri faced the challenge of moulding such talent without stifling a headstrong spirit. The former tough-guy army paratrooper, who once ran his famous Florida tennis academy like a boot camp, has finally met his match in the sassy, blond bombshell. "I've never been able to control her," he admits.

The odd couple hooked up six years ago when Bollettieri was floored by the rambunctious mighty mite from Moscow. "From the moment I met Anna, she was very bold, very aggressive," recalls Bollettieri. "She takes over everything. And she wants it now. She doesn't want to share with other people. She wants her time. She wants the feature court. It's got to be for Anna Kournikova. If it rains, she doesn't care about the whole academy. She wants her court inside. She's on a mission. And nothing is going to stop her."

The prima donna with a plan took on and nearly took over the 1990 Kremlin Cup as a pushy nine-year-old. As part of the preliminary event before the nightly men's matches, Anna was the most talented of a dozen Russian youngsters who were supposed to rotate so everyone would get a chance to strut their stuff before thousands of fans in the huge Olympic Stadium.

"I got advance notice of Anna's attitude when she insisted on headlining every session's exhibition," recalls Gene Scott, who helped organise the pro tournament, in his Tennis Week column. "She was already not only the group's most gifted but best show girl, if not show-off, and it was easy to be lured into giving Anna her way. I wasn't the only







Off the court, her provocatively tight, see-through clothes, adorable face and haughty demeanour turn heads wherever she goes. But few guys have worked up enough nerve to ask Anna for a date, and one who did in a player's lounge was smugly rebuffed with, "You can't afford me!"



COVERSTORY

one beguiled."

Shoving herself into the spotlight paid off. Poppi Vinti, the representative for 'Ellesse', the Kremlin Cup's official sportswear, rewarded Anna with dresses and shirts, all the better for the preen queen to show off her pretty, but pouting face and precocious shotmaking. Soon after, she signed one of the earliest sports endorsement contracts with 'Ellesse'. By age 10 she was a client of IMG, the world's biggest sports management company.

She didn't have to pass out business cards the way Monica Seles, another Bollettieri protege, did, as a hustling 13-year-old at the Orange Bowl International Junior Championships. Tennis people knew Anna—for better or for worse. And she showed little respect for some of the game's biggest names.

Asked if she would like to meet superstar Boris Becker at the Lipton tournament, 12-year-old Anna replied: "I wouldn't." What about Steffi Graf? It turned out that she had no desire to meet her either. In contrast, earlier whiz kid Tracy Austin did a term paper on her idols, Billie Jean King and Rod Laver, when she was in elementary school.

Like her or loathe her, Special K can really play. "The wonderful thing about this generation is that when you look at Martina and Anna and Venus, they are all complete players, and I don't think we've ever seen this in any generation," marvels all-time great Chris Evert, who won Wimbledon and the French Open at 19, an almost ancient age for teen conquests nowadays. "Before, Margaret Court and Billie Jean King were serve and volleyers, then I helped the generation of baseliners. Now you have it all in players so young."

Well, not quite. Hingis, extremely well-coached by her ambitious mother Melanie—who says she first realised Martina would become a tennis star "from the time she came out of the womb"—is the smartest player on the tour but lacks a big weapon. She also has a weak second serve that French Open champ Iva Majoli punished in their lopsided final. The inexperienced Williams didn't play any tournaments in 1992-94 and just nine pro events in 1995-96, so lack of match toughness and inconsistency will hamper her sound and powerful game for another year or two.

Anna, lean and fit at 5' 6" and 112 pounds, brags that "I can mix it up and do everything." Indeed, she's a splendid athlete (her mother

was a Polish tennis champion and her father a soccer star), blessed with great hands and reflexes that produce groundstroke winners, feathery drop shots and dynamic volleys in doubles net duels. But unlike Hingis, who hugs the baseline, hits the ball on the rise and opportunistically attacks, Anna often rallies from five or six feet behind the baseline and hits much flatter shots with less margin for error.

After Hingis decisively whipped Anna 6-1, 6-3 at the recent French Open, Evert, a TV analyst for 'NBC', was disappointed with Anna's performance but said, "We do see a lot of raw, untamed talent in Anna. And a little bit of inexperience. She certainly has all the goods and in time, she'll be playing better and better and becoming more confident."

Bollettieri boasted in his autobiography My Aces, My Faults that "I know I am the best tennis coach in the world," adding "that's my talent. I helped young men and women live up to their ability."

However, lately he's questioned whether he, or anyone, can provide the discipline and direction Anna needs to fulfil her potential. "I've never had the authority to take drastic action to curb Anna," Bollettieri complains. "If the mother (Alla) would say, 'Nick, she's your student totally,' then I would do a lot of things 360 degrees differently. The direction she is going in is already mapped out by her and her mother. The same goes for the way she acts on the court. I didn't have anything to do with it. I just told her that when you act that way, be prepared to prove who you are because you are going to get opponents

disliking you to the point that they're going to try harder to beat you. I gave her the facts of life."

One fact of life that rankles Anna is the age eligibility rule that was designed to protect her. The Women's Tennis Association, fearing more of premature burnout that ruined the careers of Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger and saw Jennifer Capriati self-destruct with drug problems, decided to limit the tournament play of its wondergirls. The rules does not apply to Hingis and Williams because they joined the tour before the restrictions were introduced on January 1, 1995.

But Anna, who turned 16 on June 7, is limited to ten tour events (plus the

Venus Williams says that she will defeat Martina Hingis. Her main opponent will be her sister Serona, she claims





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Williams



Martina Hingis also has a tendency to be full of herself and quite narcissistic. Will she change as she grown alder is the question

season-ending Chase Championships) in the year up to her 17th birthday. "Venus is just coming out and Martina is already there," says impatient Anna, ranked No. 47. "If I could have a little more chance to play, maybe I could be there also. I have to get experience. I have to learn how to win and lose. How can I learn? All I can do is practice."

The WTA's wrongheaded new ranking system—which paradoxically was created to increase tournament participation—further victimises Anna. Dumping its point average formula which accurately measured the quality of each player's results, the WTA adopted a total points system that measures quantity play. "Now it's all down to your points total and some of the other girls are planning to play about 30 tournaments which means they'll be better than me on the ranking list even if I was to win all of my ten events," rightly complains Anna.

To her credit, Anna has always taken on all comers and disdained those who didn't, like the much-hyped Williams sisters. In one of her memorable put-downs a couple of years ago, Anna said: "I watched Serena and Venus Williams play, and they're not that good They've been given more attention, than me, and they haven't even played tournaments. They don't know how to play points or how to win. I've put myself on the line. I play everybody. I'm not worfied about them."

Indeed, Anna is a throwback to the young Jimmy Connors, a tough smart-ass kid from the wrong side of the tracks who, ready for a fight, brought brass knuckles to junior tournaments. As a fearless, pint-sized kid, Anna used to venture into the mean streets of Moscow to find a wall to hit against. Then she'd come back and challenge boys to a match and often beat them.

Now teenaged boys swarm around the court during Anna's practice sessions, eager to eye her sexy, suntanned body only scantily covered in two-piece lycra outfits. In tournament matches, her brief Adidas skirts reveal the best legs in women's tennis, and her abbreviated tops often fly up to expose yet more skin. Not since gorgeous Gabriela Sabatini arrived a decade ago has such a seductive pubescent quickened male pulses.

Off the court, her provocatively tight,





see-through clothes, adorable face and haughty demeanour turn heads wherever she goes. But few guys have worked up enough nerve to ask Anna for a date, and one who did in a player's lounge was smugly rebuffed with, "You can't afford me!" She's probably right, having signed several endorsement contracts that have made her a millionairess.

Tennis' femme fatale prefers older men anyway. At the Indian Wells tourney in early 1996, Anna regularly visited the hotel bar and apparently had no trouble passing for someone much older. Her relationship with 26-year-old Russian hockey star Sergei Fedorov also has raised cycbrows. Her mother reportedly chaperones them on dates. But with Anna, who knows. When recently she was asked if she was dating Fedorov, she broadly smiled and coyly answered, "Good question. I don't know. No."

Her fast-growing popularity extends to the Internet where she has attracted legions of admirers from all over the world, but especially young Australians. One of the several Web sites devoted exclusively to alluring Anna has recorded 1,500 visitors in the past eight months. Romeo from the Philippines wrote: "Anna's a chick and she stole my heart the very first time I saw her." Edson enquired: "If you want to go out with me, come to BRAZIL." Homer, a passionate lad from Toowoomba, said: "Go Anna! Go you babe you! You thrash that Hingis girl. Get your revenge. Hugs and kisses (I wish),"-Homer.

Telegenic Anna has said that if she weren't plaving pro tennis she'd like to be an actress. She got the attention she craves in her first Grand Slam at the U.S. Open last year when she and 14th-seeded Barbara Paulus were the first feature match—televised on prime time—at night on the Stadium Court. With a flair for the dramatic that the 19,709 fans loved, the kid qualifier, behind 4-3 and 0-40 on her own serve in the third set, battled back to upset Paulus 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

After Steffi Graf whipped her 6-2, 6-1 in the next match, Anna showed why Bollettieri says, "She's a little girl who doesn't know how to speak with the press yet." Asked what it was like playing the great Graf on such an important occasion, Anna brusquely replied, "It was what it looked like."

At the 1997 Lipton, after beating Amanda Coetzer for the second time and then losing

6-3, 6-4 to Jana Novotna, her curt sarcasm again turned off the media. Anna answered the first post-match interview question of "What happened today?" with "I played a match."

Special K has somewhat toned down her act as a pro, but during her junior days she earned a reputation as a hellion on the court for angrily protesting line calls a la John McEnroe and pointing to the wrong ball marks on the clay. Disgusted with her constant arguing with the umpire and linespeople at the Continental Cup, one wag in the stands quipped, "She'd even argue over a position in bed."

The most publicised incident occurred when Anna was practising on the court next to some British junior players. When an errant shot of hers flew onto their court Anna loudly yelled: "British!" Having gotten their attention, she commanded: "Ball!" The incensed boys then whacked the ball over the opposite fence— commendable restraint, considering some of the more violent options that must have crossed their minds.

Too often though, what Anna wants, Anna gets. And what if she doesn'1?

"Anna is a smooth talker and has that smile," says Bollettieri. "She always says 'You think it's OK if I do this?' Underneath, she's saying, 'I'm gong to do it.' And she has to be in the bulls eye all the time. The centre of attention. If she isn't running the show, she's going to try to break it up."

Talking about young athletes who are pampered and live without rules, Martina Navratilova recently warned: "We're going to see more and more of these athletes falling on their faces, falling off their pedestals."

"A lot of them will fall flat on their asses," agrees Bollettieri, "but they probably will be quite secure financially because of their lucrative endorsement contracts." Bollettieri has predicted that Special K will earn \$5 to \$15 million a year before she's 18" because she's so marketable." Whether Special K will be distracted by fortune and fame—like Agassi—and fail to reach her potential remains the burning question.

At the 1997 Australian Open, Anna Dearest held court, explaining: "You cannot just be a great tennis player, or just be a beautiful person anymore to succeed in the game. You have to have it all, the talent, the looks, the brains and the drive."

Who do you think she has in mind?

TOP SHOT



was impressed,"said Jaspal Rana.

He then went on to win the junior shooting gold medal in the SAF Games at Sri Lanka in 1990. "This was my first major achievement," he said. Then he took one big leap, winning a gold in the 1994 Hiroshima Aslan Games; two golds in the Commonwealth Games (Canada) and one gold in the World Championship (Milan) the same year.

In 1995, he won eight golds in the Delhi Commonwealth shooting competition. He later won eight golds in the SAF Games at Chennai in 1996 and a similar number in the SAF shooting competition at Delhi early this year. The six golds including the world mark, at last month's National Games says it all.

JASPAL RANA hails from a family of shooters. His father Narayan Singh Rana was a competitive shooter for the Delhi State in the early Nineties. After undergoing a course for coaches in 1993, he retired from competitive shooting and started the 'Rana Institute of Shooting and Sports'. He now coaches young talents but Jaspal is his main student.

"It is very interesting how my mother became a shooter herself. She used to carry lunch for us when we practised at the Delhi Tughlakhabad Range. Soon, she began to show interest. She's now a State shooter," said Jaspal. The story doesn't end there. His brother Subhash (18) is an international shooter while sister Sushma (16) is a national shooter.

"Guns and firearms were seen at home during my younger days and the films I saw made me develop a tremendous love for the sport. The atmosphere made me a champion," Jaspal said. He is a final year Arts undergraduate at Delhi's Aurobindo College. He has an infatuation for pistols. Rapid fire, free pistol, standard, centre line, and air pistol are the categories in which he competes. "I mainly concentrate in the Free Pistol because this event is in the Olympic Games," Jaspal explained.

Jaspal, who recommends running/swimming/lightweight

exercises and yoga said, "Physical and mental,training is absolutely necessary for this sport, which is a game of the mind over the body."

At present, he is preparing for a host of events like the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games next year, and the Olympics in 2000. To prepare for these big events, he has gone to Australia to train under Tibore Gonzele. His main target is to win an Olympic medal.

Jaspal got married in February this year to Reena, who is an announcer and anchor with Delhi Doordarshan.

"His schedule is very hectic, that at times he hardly has time for me. But I love him and his career in shooting," says Reena, who was witness to his world record feat at the Kengeri range. Jaspal, who is criss-crossing the globe taking part in shooting competitions, says, "I think I am very lucky when she is around." An

interest in the sport has picked up in the northern part of the country but we need advanced weapons as they are becoming more and more important in international competitions. "Take, for instance, the Electronic Trigger. It controls the 'Muzzle Break' in changing weather conditions, and this is hardly available to all the competitors in India. Day to day, technology development helps people abroad, while in India, even to import equipment, we have to pay a hefty duty."

An air pistol costs Rs.45,000/while a centre fire pistol costs between Rs.2-3 lakhs. The ammunition for the air pistol are pellets which are quite cheap, but the ammunition used for a day's practice for the centre fire pistol could cost "as much as Rs.10,000." If imports were allowed without paying duty on these goods, it could help shooting a great deal.



Rana at the shooting range at the SAI Complex at Kengeri. He is set to go places at the international level

arranged marriage, Reena was with Jaspal at the SAF Games also.

I asked him about the state of shooting in India?

"Facilities are insufficient," he replied immediately, "We need weapons and ranges. Discipline, training and coaching are the three parts which constitute a good performance in this sport. Today the

Jaspal has always been supported by JCT Mills, Phagwara, in his sporting endeavours. Escorts Ltd. sponsored him during the National Games. Jaspal has a manager in the form of Arvind Singh Dulat of 'Sporting Ambitions', a Delhi-based sportsperson management company.

Today, Jaspal Rana has just one singular target in his sights: The 2000 Olympiad shooting gold.

All the best Jaspal!
Text & Photographs. George Francis



SHOULD WE BECOME COPYCATS?

Sri Lanka's big success in the one day games has raised a pertinent point. Should the rest of the cricketing world adopt their tactics?

BY ANDY O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA



HEN Sri Lanka shocked the world by winning the World Cup of 1996, their efforts were mistakenly put down as a proverbial flash in the pan. Their bull-at-the gate approach to one day cricket was seen as a one-off tactic that suddenly paid off. But Sri Lanka's success in the limited overs game did not end with winning the last World Cup. There is no doubt, especially after beating Pakistan repeatedly and convincingly at Sharjah and then in the Independence Cup, that they are now established as a team to reckon

The Sri Lankans have proved that the only thing limited in their game is...imagination. Questions are now being asked: how much can one day cricket evolve? Will the wham-bang-thank-you-Sam tactics that the Lankans use in the opening overs of the game become an accepted part of the one day game? Have the Lankans actually revolutionised the one day version of cricket? If so, why don't the other teams use the same proven and successful tactics?

Take the Australians for example. They have been so successful in Tests

HOTOGRAPH L P SAHI



that they could qualify as the unofficial world champions (the Ashes series could take some of the sheen off from that claim) in that form of the game, but their one day results of late have not reflected the same supremacy.

Yet, during the debate that raged over the reasons behind Australia's disastrous one day performance, there was no mention from any quarters that perhaps the Aussies ought to tread the path shown by the Sri Lankans.

With the Sri Lankan openers smashing the ball from the word go with help from the pinch-hitter, the game suddenly seemed to be re-invented...and at a rapid pace. Why then would the Australians, who for some time had shown the world the way limited overs cricket should be

"And they have the De Silva factor, probably the main reason why they are winning tournaments. One day matches are generally won by one high order batsman batting right through and De Silva has done just that."

Bobby Simpson

played, be left behind by not recognising the changing face of the version of the game they had conceived and evolved?

The answer is two fold. The general trend of thought is that firstly, the Lankans haven't really dramatically changed the game. Secondly, their tactics (or methods if you like) may not be as fruitful in the long run for other teams.

This logic has been put forward by none other than two gentlemen who were responsible for Australia's massive success in one day cricket through the '80's: Bob Simpson and Allan Border. Simpson insists that not all teams should play like the Lankans.

"One of the great difficulties in trying to copy other's styles and tactics," says Simpson "is that you must have the talent to do so, otherwise you become just very poor copies." Sri Lanka seemed to have the ideal combination in Kaluwitharana (more recently it's been Marvan Attapatu) and Jayasuriya.... but just how successful have they been? Certainly hey have been interesting and hrilling to watch, and ever since Kaluwitharana and Jayasuriya first paired up in Australia they have attracted a huge amount of publicity.

When they started in Australia they vere paired seven times with 80 being heir highest. In the World Series inals that year they managed 17 and me, respectively. They blazed away in he World Cup '96 preliminary natches, but their best partnership vas still only 83—and in the final when it counted they scored 1 and 12. They have been a little more successful after the World Cup 'specially on smaller grounds like in lingapore, and at home in Colombo.

Obviously their batting style is more suited to the batting pitches and smaller grounds of the subcontinent and in reality it is only Jayasuriya who has come away with some amount of consistency in that partnership. The subcontinent theory was also voiced by Rameez Raja after the independence Cup final in Calcutta, and the subsequent loss to the Windies have sort of affirmed the ationale, but it is still too early to draw a conclusion.

The other pertinent question to ask s: Are the opening assaults the sole eason for Sri Lanka being so great at one day cricket?

"I don't think so," declared simpson. "Even with their occasional aging starts, the Sri Lankans are still not making consistently huge scores, rertainly not a lot better than other eams with different tactics. Sri Lankas winning because they have a very alented all-round team.

"In the subcontinent, their bowlers have been superb and have contained almost every team they have met. They also have a good fielding team and a talented batting line up...And hey have the De Silva factor, probably the main reason why they are winning tournaments. One day natches are generally won by one

SRI LANKA IN ONE DAY TOURNAMENTS

		1975—1	992 World C	up	
		Match 132	Won 28	Lost 99	Abnd. 5
	After the 1	992 World Cu	p and before	the '96 World	Cup
		Match 78 1	Won 33	Lost 40	Abnd. 5
		1996 World	d Cup—June	30 '97	
,	Match 35	Won 24	Lost 9	Abnd.	Tied 1
Total:	245	85	148	11	ì

★ The ICC ruling regarding the abandoned one-day internationals, where some play was possible, are now made official in their own right. Sri Lanka were involved in two matches in this category: one against India at Colombo on 4.9.1994 and another against Pakistan at Singapore on 1.4.1996. Both the matches are included in the list of total number of matches, Sri Lanka have played till May 31, 1997

SRI LANKA In first five World Cup competitions: In sixth World Cup competition:	Match 25 6	Won 4 6	Lost 20 0	Abnd. 1 0	
	31	10	20	l	•

Against each country: After the 1992 World Cup and before the 1996 World Cup

Opponent	Match	Won	Lost	Abnd.	Tied
England	2	2	0		
Australia	11	5	6		
West Indies	14	5	8	1	-
New Zealand	9	4	3	2	-
India	12	4	7	1	
Pakistan	18	6	12		
South Africa	6	2	3	1	
Zimbabwe	5	4	ī	Ö	
Bangladesh	1	1	Õ		-
	78	33	40	5	

Against each country: After the 1996 World Cup

Opponent	Match	Won	Lost	Abnd.	Tied
England	1	1	0		
Australia	3	3	0		
West Indies	2	1	1	-	
New Zealand	5	2	2		1
India	5	4	1		
Pakistan	12	7	4	1	
South Africa	1	1	Ō		
Zimbabwe	4	3	ī		
Kenva	2	2	ō		_
·	35	24	9	1	1

Updated till June 30 1997 Compiled by Hari Prasad Chattopadhyay



high order batsman batting right through and De Silva has done just that."

Simpson is of the view that in many ways Sri Lanka's tactics are similar, but just reversed, to most of the other teams. Others concentrate on consolidating early and keeping wickets in hand for acceleration in the last 20 overs.

"Sri Lanka take the more exciting but potentially dangerous way, in the first 15 overs followed by a very quiet, consolidating period in the middle overs before a final assault. Interestingly enough, in the end; the scores end up about the same. I still prefer the traditional way, provided it is played well and with one batsman batting through...something many teams haven't been doing of late."

Allan Border too admits that there have been changes since he played his first one day international back in the late 70's, but he feels that the changes are not as great as some may think. "I still believe the greatest advantages have come in fielding, or 'defence' as some call it, rather than in batting methods," says the former Australian captain who considers Simpson to be the guru of one day tactics.

"Ten years ago, you could rely on a couple of 'clodhopper' types on the field. They got found out because you knew there would be an easy single to

Sri Lanka in recent times have become a well knit, composite team and has defeated some of the best cricketing teams

them every time. And one would become two every time the ball was hit past them. Those lumbering fielders with poor arms have largely disappeared.

"In many ways, I feel it's a reaction to the improvement in fielding that sides like Sri Lanka are taking on the bowling, and going over the top in the first 15 overs. And taking advantage of the field setting in the first few overs has always been identified, even though the Sri Lankans' execution has been somewhat exceptional."

There have been other teams who have adopted the pinch hitter tactics up in the batting order. Years ago, England swung Ian Botham in as an opener to utilise his powerful arms in the first 15 overs. Sometimes it came off, often it didn't. Of late, South Africa has promoted Pat Symcox, India Javagal Srinath and Pakistan Shahid Afridi to make use of the first 15 overs' fielding restrictions.

But Border remain nonplussed.

"Anyone who thinks that tossing in a pinch hitter early on to cause some damage is a new phenomenon, is hazy on their history," says the man who has played more one day

internationals than anyone else in the history of the game. He recalls how New Zealand tried the pinch hitting ploy years ago with Lance Cairns and Australia experimented with Craig McDermott.

"You send in your big hitting tail enders to inject some momentum," explains Border. "Even if he gets out you can revert to 'Plan B' and get a batsman to the crease to knock the ball around. The general pattern has been to build towards a wickets-in-hand situation for some heavy hitting towards the end of the 50 overs. There is nothing to say that this method has suddenly become out-dated.

"With good, solid batting it is not unusual for a side to muster 250-270. I'd just say the Sri Lankan way is a different approach to getting the same totals." Border advises the other teams not to get caught up by trying to imitate the Lankans just because everyone has been swept away by their spectacular displays.

"There are times when some teams get caught up trying to play someone else's game. The best way to play the game is the way you are used to playing it—successfully. It's the old mistake of trying to be someone you are not. There shouldn't be this note of slight panic if you haven't used the first 15 overs a la the Sri Lankans."

NIPPED IN THE PRIME OF LIFE



Captain M.S.BHINDER, pictured on his horse Pharoah', at the National Games at Bangalore. He won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the equestrian events: show jumping, eventing and tent-pegging. After this sterling performance, he was optimistic about doing well at the Bangkok Asian Games next year But fate decreed otherwise. A week later, he died in the devastating fire at Delhi's 'Uphaar' cinema. He is survived by his wife and son

VASTLY IMPROVED

CHAMINDA VAAS has become Sti Lanka's most potent strike bowler

Tell us something about the rise of Sri Lankan cricket and your contribution towards it.

In Sri Lankan cricket, I don't think there hasn't been anything called 'rise' as people keep saying....it was just that we were transformed into a fighting force, capable of winning close matches and were able to dominate the first 15 overs.

My role has mainly been to restrict batsmen and to pick up wickets at regular intervals. At times, I've also batted with pluck. As a strike bowler, one has to shoulder more responsibility. I have no complaints about that, because we have been bred on the dictum — 'work, work and more work. There are no short cuts'.

What inspired you to take up fast bowling?

Fast bowling is an art I have always admired, right from my childhood days. At school and later in college, it became an obsession. When I was offered a chance to join the MRF pace academy at Madras in 1993, I "was a raw talent'. At Madras, I learnt different facets of fast bowling. I came to know that the secret didn't really lie in pace alone, but in the change of pace. For this, one needs to be 100% physically fit and technically correct.

There were also major influences like Dennis Lillee who taught me how to bowl with control and accuracy.



Vees' dedication and intensity is worth emulating for youngsters who want to make a mark in the same

It has been said that the subcontinental pitches are unsuitable for producing fast bowlers. Do you agree?

No, I don't. It depends purely on how much effort an individual puts in. There is no doubt that a good delivery may get smashed all round the park but one has to develop appropriate weapons for that — the slower balls, the yorkers, etc.

How do you look at fast bowling in the context of the increasing importance of one-day cricket?

One-dayers have been designed in such a way so that a lot of runs can be scored. The advent of Sanath Jayasuriya, Saeed Anwar or Sachin Tendulkar has altogether changed the face of the game. A fast bowler may not like it as much because it is all about free-scoring and big-hitting but one has to be patient and try out a few intelligent tricks.

What do you think is the formula for success for a modern-day fast bowler?

I've always realised that at the international level, it is the killer-instinct that holds the key to success.

But cricket is a gentleman's game?

You can be a perfect gentleman and still be deadly competitive. No harm, absolutely!

What is your image of an ideal pace bowler?

Imagine the picture of Dennis Lillee or Michael Holding before you and you get the answer.

How much do you think before you bowl?

If the wicket has some juice and everything is going well, one can think and plan the batsmen out. But this is not so in the one-dayers. It depends on the situation. Under certain circumstances, you have to learn to contain while under other circumstances, you must learn to pick up wickets.

Your Test debut against the Pakistanis in 1994 wasn't particularly successful. How did the transformation take place? In the following series against

Zimbabwe, in October the same year, I got 10 wickets. The tour to New Zealand in April '95 was a major happening in my career. I was lucky enough to give my team proper breakthroughs at suitable points. I won man-of-the-match awards in both the games of the series.



Chaminda Vaas is always calm and cool under pressure

The transformation still wasn't complete. We reached Australia towards December that year and played some tough cricket there. I went through a real hard grind. I ended up becoming the strike bowler of the side. In the Test matches, I didn't do particularly well. But I did well in the World Series. I finished up with a tally of 15 victims. It proved to be the ideal preparation for the '96 World Cup.

Who is the best batsman you've bowled to in international cricket?

It is extremely difficult to pick one. I've bowled to a lot of great batsmen—Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar, Mark Waugh. They are all great in their individual ways.

Is it always an extra burden to be the main bowler of a world champion team?

Not at all. On the contrary, it's a wonderful feeling. You have the

motivation to work harder. Our team is wonderfully united. All of us are prepared to put in the best on a given day. We also understand each other's problems and share our innermost feelings.

What about the injury problems that you are having at present? Most of the fast bowlers are plagued with injuries. It's not a new phenomenon with me. I'll recover after some rest.

What has been the role of the captain Arjuna Ranatunga?

Arjuna Ranatunga is not only our captain, he's a father-figure to us. 1 owe a lot to him. He's extremely patient while dealing with us youngsters. He's prepared to give us chances; he always pumping up our competitive spirits. Really, his contribution is endless. He gives us advise on all matters, both personal and professional.

Do you consider yourself as a potential all-rounder?

Well, maybe, I could be one a few years from now. But at heart, I'm a bowler. But for the benefit of the side you have got to bat well, to provide some quick runs when the team needs it most.

After a match, how do you relax?

Mostly, I return to my room and I am in my own world. Apart from that, swimming is perhaps the best thing I can do after practice. It helps me to relax the muscles and it prepares me for the match the next day. Sometimes, I love to go out on long drives, listen to Lankan music, pop music, ballads, etc. Basically, I'm a very quiet person and keep away from large crowds, as much as possible. But then again, there's a pleasure in knowing people and speaking to them on topics, apart from cricket.

What are your future ambitions? To provide some dream victories for my nation and bring as much prestige and laurels for the team.

Interviewed by Rica Roy



SETTING RECORDS

As many as 146 new records were set at the National Games at Bangalore. But they were nowhere near Asian standards, let alone the world. It does not augur well for India in the Bangkok Asian Games next year

beaming president of the Indian Olympic
Association (IOA) Mr
Suresh Kalmadi said, "The standard of Indian sports is on the upswing as was clearly evident in the fourth National Games at Bangalore where as many as 146 new Games records were created, which was twice the number created at Pune."

Hosts Karnataka topped the medals tally with an impressive 72 gold, 45 silver and 51 bronze medals for an overall haul of 168 medals. Their's was the largest contingent of 534 competitors and, amongst themselves, they shared 56 of the 146 Games records.

Kalmadi indicated that these facts

reflect a rising standard in Indian sport. That is a good sign. However if the performances are compared to rising sports standards in Asia, many of the record-breaking feats in the Bangalore jamboree pales into insignificance.

The old adage, "all that glitters is not gold," could be applied to some of the performances in the Bangalore edition. Records tumbled like the proverbial ninepins but how many of these performances can be considered indicators of actual international success or at least of international potential? The discovery of unknown talent and some classy performances can be considered some of the highlights on the sports front of these National Games.

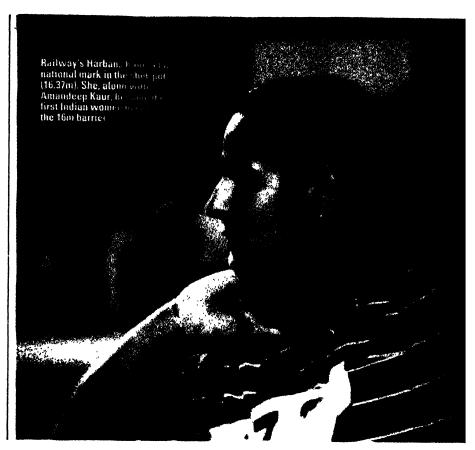
Y NOVERAPACHA, BANGA, OHE

When the Karnstake relay squad was disqualified, the spectators showed their wrath by throwing missiles on the field. Picture shows an unfortunate Chandigarh athlets who was bleeding after being hit by a missile. Such type of atrocious behaviour should be prevented from bappening again

New Stars On The Horizon

In athletics, seven records (three national and four Games records) were shattered. But the highlight of the track was that several new stars emerged with encouraging performances. Harbans Kaur, an officer in the Railways, and Amandeep Kaur, a police officer from Punjab, became the first Indian women to cross the 16-metre barrier in the women's shot-put. They heaved the put to a distance of 16.37 metres. Harbans bagged the gold medal and Amandeep the silver.

Both are the best of friends, train together, share jokes and dance the giddha but on the field they are arch rivals. By achieving a distance of 16.37 metres, they have shown promise for



OF INSIGNIFICANCE



the future. An Asiad medal is possible if they can cross the 17-metre barrier. Both Amandeep and Harbans have the strength, fitness and desire to cross this barrier. But as they both quipped, "We need more international competition." I ask again, is SAI and the Amateur Athletic Federation of India listening?

M.K.Asha, a protege of diligent coach Purshottam Rai, excelled in winning a hurdles double (100 and the 400 metres.) Asha clocked 13.83 to set a new national record in the 100 metres hurdles, beating Debi Bose's mark of 13.89 sec. Asha has the speed and technique to excel in the hurdles.

32-year-old Rosa Kutty, mother of

M. K. Ashe won the 100 and 400m hurdles gold. This Karnstake star has the speed and technique to do better a daughter, has also benefited by Purshottam Rai's coaching. She won four gold medals in the meet, including the 400, 800 and 1500 metres. She set Games records in the 800 and 1500 metres. Purshottam Rai has improved her basic speed and has made her a front-runner. Rosa Kutty who won a medal at the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, still has the potential to do well at Bangkok in 1998.

Rachita Mistry (nee Panda) won the 100 metres gold medal despite training for just two months, after a long lay off due to child birth. Rachita who reached the 100 metres final at the 1994 Asiad, has the strength and explosiveness to do well at Bangkok. She is training with her husband Homiyar Mistry, who is also a

national-level sprinter.

In the men's section, Delhi's Amit Khanna with his Tarzan-like physique won the sprint double. He timed 10.59 in the 100 metres but hopes to improve with better competition. Rajeev Balakrishnan, the winner of this event in the 1994 National and who is presently studying at Stanford University in the USA, has reportedly clocked 10.39 seconds. Both Rajeev and Amit have the potential to improve. But for success at the Asiad level, they should consistently clock under 10.30 seconds.

Our Mediocre Swimming Standards

SWIMMING records tumbled like the proverbial ninepins (37 records: 10 national and 27 meet records were set).

Nisha Millet, who shifted from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka, to gain better training facilities and practice did her home state proud. She had an unprecedented haul of nine gold (including two relays) and one silver medal. However, Nisha did not break any national record though she set six Games records.

Sajini Shetty won four individual gold medals with record-breaking performances. She smashed the



existing national record in all her four triumphs: the 200 and 400 metres individual medley races and the 100 and 200 metres breast-stroke races.

In the men's section, J. Abhijith returned a remarkable haul of seven gold (one relay), one silver and two bronze (one relay) medals. Abhijith set national records in the 100, 200 and 400 metres freestyle, the 100

metres butterfly and the 200 metres individual medley races. As for Nisha Millet's performance, see box.

So many records were created. It sounds great! However what does it indicate about improved standards?

Pradeep Kumar, the Karnataka coach says, "There has been an improvement as most meet records have been broken. Records set by Anita Sood, in the 1985 National Games have all been shattered." This is one way of evaluating the swimming competition. But compare the timings to Asian records and you'll get a clear picture that the Indian swimmers still lag far behind.

Another reason why our swimmers do not excel is as coach Nihar Ameen said, "Lack of enough competition. Meghana Narayan would easily beat Bula Chowdhury's national records in the butterfly events with more competition." Nihar Ameen feels that the Swimming Federation of India should procure sponsorship and organise more regional level meets with neighbouring countries. He said, "Our swimmers need more exposure

Kerala's Jessymol (left) and Minimol won five golds each in the canoeing and kayaking events



MORE SCOPE TO IMPROVE

NISHA MILLET, the Sportswoman of the National Games, feels that sne can perform much better

THE highly-motivated Nisha Millet, for instance, was not at all pleased with her timings. Her parents who have made numerous sacrifices to promote her career realise that to fulfil her next ambition of reaching the Asian Games finals, a lot of improvement is needed. Her father Aubrey Millet said, "In the 50 metres freestyle, she should be clocking about 0:27 or under and in the 100 metres freestyle, she must manage a timing of 0:58, whereas in the 200 metres freestyle, she should clock about 2:08.00 or under, to at least reach the finals of these events in the Asiad." Many feel that the 200 metres freestyle is Nisha's best bet as her life best of 2:11.43 is just off the Asiad final qualifying timing of 2:08.57.

At Bangalore, Nisha was trained by the eloquent and highly qualified Nihar Ameen at the K.G. Reddy Swimming Centre, which has the distinction of producing top-class swimmers. Her timings have shown a steady but not spectacular improvement. Nisha is hardworking, the coaching and the facilities at Bangalore are top class. At her club, she trains with the superb all-rounder Meghana Narayan (who combines a Computer Engineering degree with brilliance in swimming), Hakimmudin and Tashima Singh.

A major factor in swimming in India is the inability or lack of expert advice as regards specialisation. Karnataka banked heavily on Nisha. For instance, to swell the host's medal tally, Nisha was given the task of participating in about 10 races. Certainly this doesn't happen anywhere in the world where a swimmer is forced to take the 'excessive workload'.

A nervous and highly strung

person, Nisha does not sleep between her heats in the morning and the finals in the evening. She says, "I get sluggish if I sleep between events." Thus Nisha spends a lot of nervous energy and gets fatigued after a major swimming meet. She is still unsure whether to concentrate on the shorter freestyle events, like the 50 or 100 metres freestyle or the 200 metres freestyle.

Her coach Nihar Ameen said,

1996 Atlanta Olympics and is one of Nisha's idols also trains there. Nisha's mother hopes that, "At this club, they will be able to evaluate which events are most suitable for Nisha, so she can concentrate and specialise in these events only for the 1998 Bangkok Asiad."

The parents also hope that it will toughen her mental attitude. The choice of the Phoenix club is interesting as the club focuses on sprint training. Her father hopes



Nisha Millet: 'Sportswomen Of The Games'

"She has a mental block about not lasting the 200 metres freestyle and goes slow in the initial 100 metres but picks up speed later. If she could increase her pace in the initial stages of the race her timing could reach the Asiad finals level."

To decide on which events she is most suited for, Nisha's parents have sent her, as soon as the National Games were over, for a two-and-a-half months coaching programme to the Phoenix Swim Club at Phoenix, (Arizona), USA. She will be training there till the end of August.

Gary Hall, the ace American swimmer who won a silver medal in the 100 metres treestyle at the

that the exposure will improve her base speed so that she can manage sub-28 seconds in the 50 metres freestyle in order to improve her timings in the 100, 200 and 400 metres freestyle events.

Nisha has managed this swimming scholarship thanks to aid from a church-based organisation, the International Athletics Ministry. Her airfare is being paid by the Sports Authority of Karnataka. Her school, the Sophia Convent, granted her leave and her teachers are so co-operative that they are even willing to send her class 10 lessons to Phoenix.

Novy Kapadia

NOT YET A DISCREDITED EVENT

Sports administrators talk about the plus points of the Games

HE concept of the National Games, according to Randhir Singh, the secretary-general of the IOA, may, in the long term, prove beneficial to Indian sports. He said, "The National Games helps in the development of international-standard infrastructure which has long term benefits, improves the sporting ethos in the state, helps in spotting young talents and spreads the Olympic Message."

In fact, Randhir Singh categorically said that, "We are awarding the next National Games to Manipur, so as to tap the potential and latent. talent in the North-East, spread the Olympic Message amongst the youth of that region and provide international facilities in that under-developed region."

With years of sports administration experience, Randhir Singh is very much aware of the pitfalls also. He admits, "Often the stadia and facilities created are not adequately used. Take the example of the Sports City just outside Pune. This is being under-utilised. That is why we are now insisting that sports stadia should be built within a city so that it can be easily accessible. Also we have advised the Games organisers in Manipur, to build smaller stadia of about 20,000 capacity instead of the big ones which tend to be white elephants."

So despite the carping critics, the National Games is not entirely a waste of money and effort. The cost of the National Games in Bangalore escalated from an estimate of Rs.25 crores to Rs.125 crores. But Asia's 'Silicon Vailey' has many corporate houses and besides the main sponsor 'Videocon', the Games organising committee also roped in 19 other sponsors.

The State Sports Minister, Ajay Kumar Sarnaik felt, "The costs shot up but our net gain was huge, as we now have world-class stadia, all within the city. We must utilise them to develop champion sportspersons and create a sports atmosphere."

Several IOA officials said that world-class stadia and facilities have been provided and it is now up to the National Sports Federations to see that they are fully utilised. Randhir Singh admits that "the creation of world-class stadia and international equipment does not lead to success in the Asiad but it is a step in the right direction."

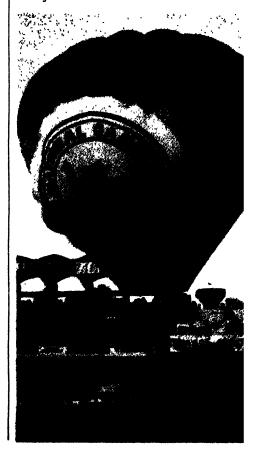
What the IOA and the Games organisers in Bangalore need to be aware of are the familiar problem of under-utilisation of world-class equipment. Putte have world-class equipment like hurdles, javelins and gymnastics apparatus but they have not been utilised. This is a sheer waste of resources. The IOA and the National Sports Federations have to draw up plans to ensure that these world-class facilities are properly used. So far, the response has been typical of Indian sports administration.

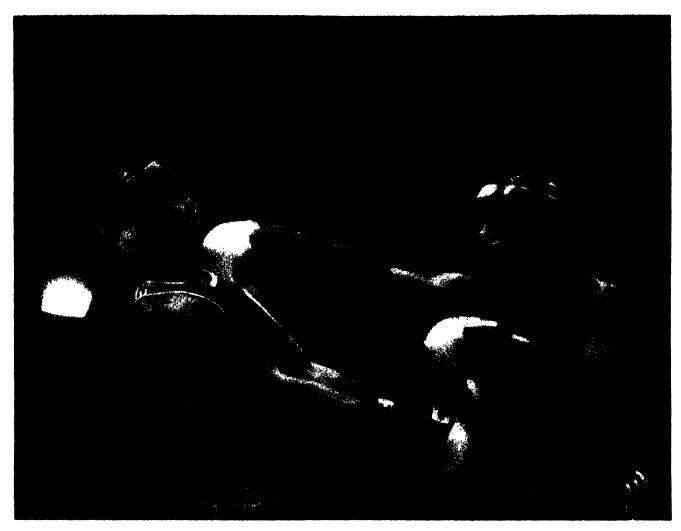
The Handball Federation of India wants to stage the Commonwealth Championships at the Chamundi Vihar indoor stadium at Mysore and the Weightlifting Federation of India is keen to organise the Asian Championships at the impressive Gurunanak Bhavan at Bangalore. Such responses are temporary because international meets only allows the office-bearers of National Sports Federations to bask in reflected glory and if possible to sneak into some international committees. The stadia should be used regularly and generate a genuine sports atmosphere in the country.

to improve". Is the SFI and SAI listening?

After a decade India has a crop of talented swimmers: Sajini Shetty in the breast-stroke; Meghana Narayan in the butterfly; Nisha Millet in the freestyle. Sangeeta Rani Puri is at present training in Los Angeles while J. Abhijith and Sebastian Xavier in the men's events who, in terms of talent. are on the same level as Anita Sood. Khazan Singh, Wilson Cherian and Persis Madan of the early Eighties. With proper grooming and exposure the current group of swimmers can bring laurels for India. A lot of the swimmers have creditably made individual efforts to improve.

Sajini Shetty went for a training stint abroad. She trained for six months at the Nova Swim Club at San Francisco. Her parents financed this trip. Sangeeta Rani Puri is hoping for a swimming scholarship with an American university to further improve her timings. She is presently training with a club in Los Angeles. Abhijith also trained in Canberra in





Australia last year for over six months on a Sports Authority of India scholarship. It is now up to the SFI and the Union Sports Ministry to ensure that this talented group of swimmers do not stagnate.

Incidentally, Bangalore has dethroned Mumbai as a dominant swimming centre. Mumbai coach Sandeep Digvaker said that swimmers from Maharashtra are no longer a force to reckon with. So, Bangalore can safely be called the swimming capital of India. The talent is obvious: the desire to excel exists; the coaching and facilities are adequate. Although these swimmers are still not yet a force in Asia. But, still, it is doubtful if any of the famous Karnataka swimmers Sajini Shetty, Meghana Narayan, Nisha Millet or J. Abhijith can emulate Khazan Singh's 1986 Bangkok Asiad feat of a silver medal.

Encouraging Sign

OXING provided many memorable moments and encouragement for the future. Many talented pugilists came to the forefront at the open rings in the Sullivan Police Grounds. A new crop has emerged in the lightweight categories. Dronacharya Award winner and former national boxing coach Om Prakash Bharadwaj said, "The encouraging sign is that this new crop of young boxers seem well versed in the modern art of scoring with punches both at the body and face. Also their body stance, feet movement and the variety and quality of their punches are of international calibre."

Having seen a lot of quality international boxing on satellite TV

A boxing bout in progress. A new crop of talented pugilists, if groomed properly, will do India proud in the future

and the influence of Cuban coaches has had a big impact on the young Indian boxers. The light flyweight finals witnessed a quality fight between two promising youngsters just out of their teens, Rosamma Colney of Mizoram and Bhim Singh of Punjab. Other youngsters to impress the coaches were Benjamin Siddi, Dum Bahadur Gurung, Narinder Rana and C. Kutappa.

Of course, the most popular boxer was the King's Cup gold medallist Dingo Singh in the flyweight with his sledgehammer left hook and fast counter-punches. Dingo is certainly a medal hope in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games and coach Bharadwaj considers him the finest prospect in recent times. World Cup bronze

KERALA EMERGE VICTORS

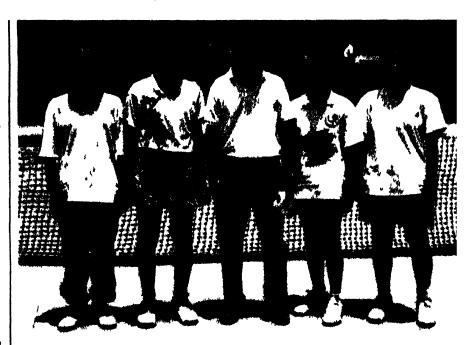


The victorious Karnin fautholi team posses with AIFF President Priya Renjan Das Munahi after they heat Gos in the final

medalist Venkatesh Devrajan, who turned professional and accompanied the Tamil Nadwteam as coach, also feels that Dingo has the hunger and technique for international success

Many boxing coaches feel that medal prospects in the lighter weights at the Asiad are minimal as there are numerous quality light-weight category boxers in Thailand the Phillipines, Japan and South Korea. It is known that at the Asiad, traditionally the heavier weight boxers have won medals for India. Creditably, even in the middle and heavier sections, the more established internationals like Harpal Singh, Gurcharan Singh and Joilyson showed ample potential.

The Boxing Federation of India has ambitious plans for these potential boxers, as part of the training programme for the Bangkok Asiad



The Temil Nadu women's team which won the gold medal in the tennis section. (From left): Anuja Pathi, Rushmi Chakravarthy, Coach Ilyas Hussain, Sai Jayalakshmi (singles gold winner) and Smitha Rao



In boxing, the real find of the National Games was the re-emergence of Saad Farooq of Andhra Pradesh in the welter weight category. The Secunderabad-based Farooq nearly quit boxing two years ago when his shoulder bone came out of its socket at the Jamshedpur Nationals. Poctors told him to quit the sport. However, his love for the ring made him stage a memorable comeback. He has re-adjusted his style and become a more complete boxer. Now he does not rely only on power but instead like his idol Mohammad Ali, likes "to flit like a butterfly and sting like a bee," with his delectable footwork, body feints and counter punching.

In one of the finest bouts of the Games, he beat experienced international Tuk Bahadur Thapa of Services, a SAF Games gold medallist on points in the semi-finals.

22-year-old, Saad has commendable mobility and the rare ability to sway away from his opponent's hard punches. With more international exposure he has the talent to be an Asiad medallist.

Focus On Unknown Lifters

N weight lifting, 23 new records (four national and 19 Games records) were set. The most heartening feature of these Games was the emergence of unknown young women lifters who shone due to the absence of established stars like Karnam Malleswari and Kunjarani Devi (who stayed away as they are preparing for the Asian Championships).

The find of the meet was a 16-year-old dynamo Madhura Sinhasane from Sangli in Maharashtra who won the gold medal in the 46kg category. All the assembled coaches felt she has immense potential and could be a medal prospect in the 2002 Asiad.

Many iron-women emerged from Maniput. 16-year-old Gitanjali Devi, showed good technique and explosiveness to win the silver medal in the 50 kg category. Another Manipuri lifter to excel was Nandini Devi, who broke Karnam Malleswari's Games record in the jerk event whilst winning the gold medal in the under 54 kg category. Neelam Lakshmi of Andhra Pradesh set a new national record in the snatch event of the 70 kg category.

Women's lifting in India is certainly on the upswing. Malleswari and Kunjarani Devi have inspired a new generation which is bristling with talent.

PHOTOGRAPHS GEORGE FRANCIS /SCORP NEWS

A Great Man Passes Away

MIHIR SEN was one of the greatest long distance swimmers that India has ever produced

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

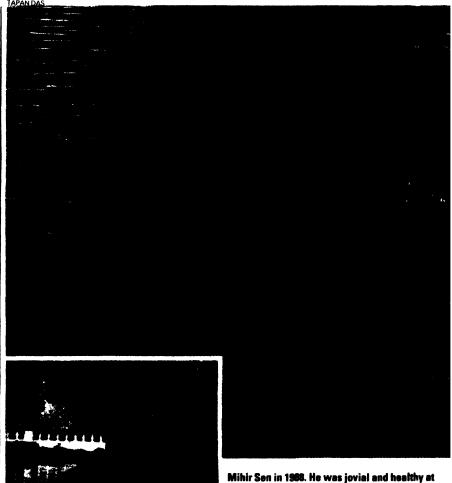
IHIR SEN is no more.
Last month, he died of a heart attack in a
Calcutta nursing home.
He was 66 years old. He is survived by his Hungarian-born wife Bella and four daughters, all of whom live abroad. He had been suffering from an advanced state of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease for quite a few years.

Late last year, Mr D.K. Saraf, the Hony. Secretary of the Anandalok nursing home in Salt Lake came across an old newspaper clipping which described the financial and physical plight of Mihir Sen.

He rushed to Alipore where Sen lived and was shocked to see the great swimmer lying in his own urine and excreta. He'had been, more or less, abandoned by his wife and close relatives; they could not handle the enormous financial and emotional toll caused by Sen's physical and mental collapse.

Mr Saraf transferred Sen to the Anandalok nursing home where ne was given an air-conditioned room, along with a TV and piped music. "He was a man we admired," he had told the press at that time.

Mihir Sen spent the last few months of his life in relative comfort in this nursing home. You cannot blame his wife for neglecting him. They hardly



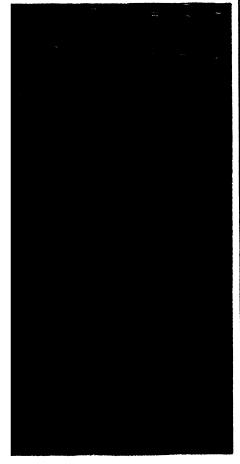
Mihir Sen in 1988. He was jovial and healthy at that time

had any income: just Rs. 1000 from the Union Government every month. (Here I would like to point out the utter callousness of the State Government. Sen was one of Bengal's greatest sons but the Government did nothing to help him).

IHIR SEN created history when he became the first Asian to cross the English Channel. That was

way back in the Fifties when Indians did not have the self-confidence they have now. Later, he did a series of swims in different continents that established him as a great swimmer(see box).

I remember meeting him for the first time in May, 1988, in his bright, airy third-floor office in Ezra Mansions in Calcutta. He was in his late fifties but he was fit and strong.



His chest jutted out; he had bulging shoulder muscles. His soft black eyes were always smiling. He spoke with zest and enthusiasm. He jumped up from his chair and with a long ruler, he pointed out the swims that he had done, on a large framed map of the world, hanging on a wall.

At that time he was going through a financially stressful period. He had been the second largest exporter of silk in the country. But labour troubles at his factory had all but bankrupted him. Little did he or I realise that the life ahead was going to be a terribly miserable one for him.



Within a few months, Alzheimer's disease would strike him with great force. Three years later, when I met him at his home in Alipore, it was a shock. He had become thin and weak. He needed the help of his wife in order to put on his shirt. His hands shook perceptibly. He was a man with no memory. He could not remember any of his famous swims. He could not converse properly. Most of the time, his talk was a mumble. His wife Bella tried to interpret it for me. It was heart-breaking to see a man decline so swiftly and suddenly.

At that time Bella Sen calmly defined the disease to me:
"Alzheimer's disease is a sort of brain death. The cells die one by one because of the sluggish flow of blood to the brain. Your memory goes. Then your functions go: Mihir cannot eat by himself. He cannot walk. He cannot stand up. He cannot recognise people. He has a complete loss of energy."

It was sad to realise that he could not recognise me at all. To console myself, I visualised the vibrant Mihir Sen of the first interview who gave me some interesting quotes:

(This was after crossing the English Channel): a) I wanted to show the world, but especially the Europeans, that we Indians can do something. I wanted to show the youth of my generation, that if you have a will, you

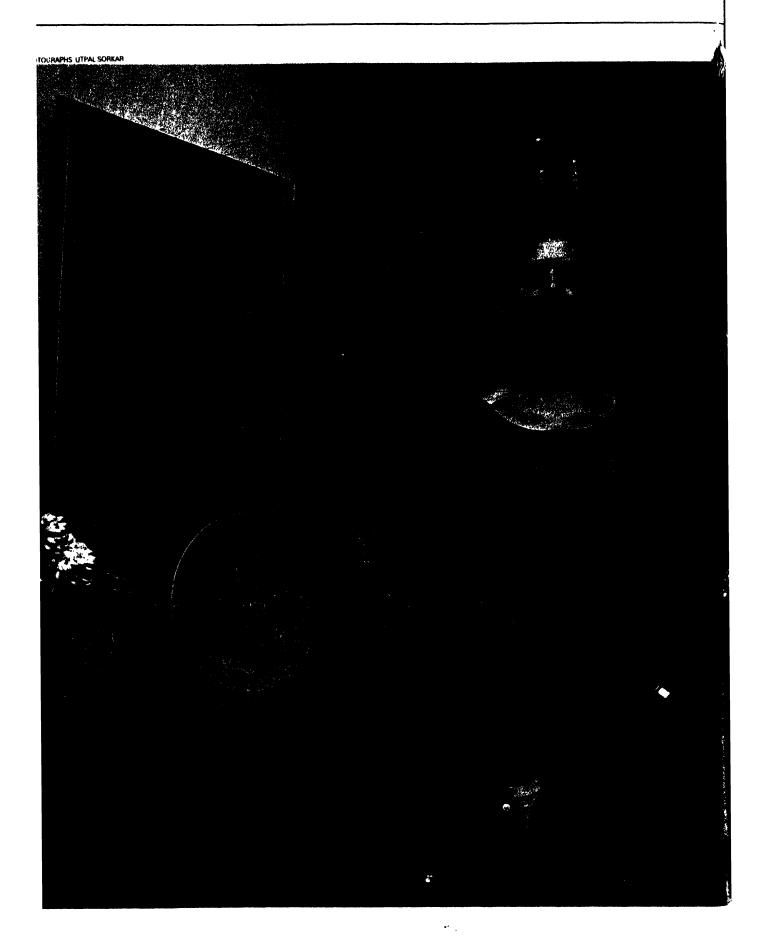
In 1991, Alzheimer's disease had struck him with full force. He was a pale shadow of his former self

can achieve great things in life. And lastly, I wanted to show myself that it could be done.

b) With the mind you can do any thing in life. The sad thing is that the Indian is very timid. We are cowards in a way. We cannot go out of our territory. We want to keep living in the place where we are born. We don't have a sense of adventure in us and our timidity makes achievement all the more difficult.

c) The key to success in crossing the Channel lies in one's ability to swim fast. Swimmers who take a long time to do the crossing are often overpowered by the effects of freezing cold water before they reach their destination.

Milhir SEN was born in Purulia in West Bengal in 1930 but he spent his early life in Cuttack. From a young age he was fascinated by water. He learnt swimming when he was a child. But he had no dreams of becoming a swimmer. Instead, afflicted by a natural in-born restlessness, he decided when he was 18, to go abroad. But he had no money. It was then that he met (the late) Biju Patnaik, one of the leading industrialists (and later the Chief



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

The English Channel
The Palk Strait
Straits of Gibralter
Straits of Dardanelles
Straits of Bhosphorous
Panama Canal

1958. First Asian. 33 miles 1966 First Man. 22 miles

1966. First Asian. 14 miles 1966. First man. 40 miles

1966. First Indian. 16 miles.1966. First non-American and third man.

50 miles.

A medical description of Alzheimer's Disease: It is a progressive form of dementia occurring in middle age or later, for which there is no treatment. It is associated with diffuse degeneration of the brain. It is an incurable disease that attacks the switch-like synapses between brain cells so that the brain can no longer send or receive messages properly. Typically, the disease first affects memory and the ability to learn, then language skills and motor co-ordination are affected.

Minister) of the state of Orissa.

He pestered Patnaik to sponsor his trip to England. Patnaik said no. But Mihir Sen followed Patnaik wherever he went. If Patnaik was attending an office meeting, Sen was there. If Patnaik was going to the club, Sen was there. For six months, this went on. Finally, one day, Patnaik called him into his office and said, "Young man, here is a suitcase and some money. Now, go to Bombay and contact my office and they will give you the tickets for a ship going to London. This is your best chance, so make the best of it."

Mihir Sen arrived in London. He started studying law. One day, while he was going through the newspaper, he read that a woman, Florence Chadwick by name, was making an ttempt to cross the English Channel. He thought to himself, 'A girl can do it and I....why can't I do what she had done.'

That was the start of an obsession. As Sen said a decade ago: "Once a decision is made, I'm a lusty, heartless masochist." He began training in eartiest. The distance between Dover in England and Calais on the French coast is 33 miles. But the Channel was not going to be an easy conquest. The weather was treacherous most of the

Pictured in the drawing room with his much-maligned wife Bella

time and to top that, the water was very cold. This made it that much more difficult to acclimatise for a man coming from the warm climes of India.

Sen made his first attempt in August 1955, but he had to give up due to bad weather. It was only on his fourth attempt in September 1958 that he achieved his dream of crossing the Channel. It took him 14 hours and 45 minutes.

This is how he described the moment: "When I felt solid rock under my feet, the first sensation was almost magical. I had a lump in my throat and tears of joy welled up in my tired sleepless eyes. Only I knew, whatagony, what sacrifice, what suffering I had gone through to feel this bit of solid under my feet. Mother Earth never felt so secure, so enchanting. The end of a journey—a long and lonely pilgrimage."

The nation showed its appreciation when Jawaharlal Nehru awarded the 'Padma Shree in 1959. Later, in 1967, he was presented with the Padma Bhushan by Indira Gandhi.

After such a magnificent career, the end was tragic. Lonely, aloof, lost in the labyrinth of a brain that was decaying day by day, he could hardly converse properly anymore. When he died, his family was not around. The children were abroad; Bella was too emotionally drained to be present.

There was an unseemly spat between Mr D.Saraf and Bella at the Anandalok nursing home when she came to claim the body. Mr Saraf felt that the people at the nursing home should cremate Sen since they had been looking after him these past few months; Bella insisted that as the wife, she had the legal right. She was right, of course. It marred the sad occasion. Finally, a compromise was reached; the body was taken to the crematorium by the Anandalok people and Bella.

At the cremation, no swimmer nor any official from the state swimming association was present. A sad, sad end.

One hopes that in death, Mihir Sen will experience that which eluded him for the last quarter of his life: peace of soul.

THE **PRESIDING** DEITY

Five years after his retirement, VIV RICHARDS is still held in awe by his fellow Antiquans

E is omnipresent in Antigua. Even when he is busy tutoring the Sultan of .Brunei's son a few thousand miles away in downtown Brunei, you could still be breathing his smell in the thin Antiguan air.

He is treated with the respect that maybe only the US President commands or a Mandela. Five years since his retirement, the awe that still exists around him is unbelievable.

Three generations of cricket watchers reckon that he has been the ultimate player. Curtly Ambrose also hails from this region, so does Andy Roberts, Richie Richardson and Winston Benjamin. But all of them put together are no match for one Vivvy. The youngsters call him Dr. Richards (I was told that this Doctor prefix is a symbol of respect).

Viv Richard's home. Note the initials on the gate along with the design of a bat





Try telling them that he was quite arrogant, that he didn't care much for records, that as a diplomat he didn't cover himself with as much glory as a Worrell or Lloyd did. "So what" they'll tell you quite rudely. You're to understand the local ground rule: no anti-Viv talk is being entertained here.

The players' pavilion at the St John's Recreation Ground is named after him. There is a Vivian Richards street (to commemorate the place where he grew up) which starts half a kilometre from the ground. His picture also adorns the cover of the local telephone directory.

Baseball, basketball and soccer, all combined, have made deep inroads 'into cricket's popularity cake in the islands. If Antigua presents a welcome exception you know where credit is due.

about. You might find them parochial when they proclaim that perhaps Viv was a better captain than Lloyd. But then you do find it difficult to refute their argument that Lloyd in his entire career had lost two away series. Viv lost none. "How can you call him inferior then?" they ask.

Brian Lara rewrote cricket history in Antigua. You and I, would obviously think Lara would top the

Lara's rebellion against their own captain Richardson. Richardson bid farewell immediately after the World Cup as he found it difficult to lead such a low-spirited side which was plagued by personality clashes.

In these clashes, Brian Lara almost always held centrestage. Richardson had no other option but to relinquish the West Indian captaincy. The average Antiguan always bore a grudge against the bigger islands for thwarting their talented players. Now they have found a classic example in the Lara-Richardson case. Lara from Trinidad caused the ouster of Richardson from Antigua.

Now if you thought Richardson comes next to Viv in terms of popularity in Antigua, you are mistaken. On the contrary, there's still a hate Richardson wave as most of the Antiguans have presumed, that when he was the captain, he played a major role in keeping Viv out of the West Indies side that failed miserably in the 1992 World Cup.

That there were angry demonstrations outside Richardson's place in those days was only a minor surprise. Till today, the locals haven't forgiven Richie for betraying their Vivvy. He continues to live with the image of being a traitor.

There is a look-alike of Viv, his brother Merwyn, who acted as the liasion officer of the Indian team when they toured the West Indies this time. Merwyn, we were told was more talented than Viv, but somehow he couldn't make the grade. (The Richards brothers represented the island in both cricket and soccer).

Merwyn, however, shrugs off the suggestion of having more talent by saying "I was too casual. Viv, on the other hand, did everything in life very seriously. For him a cricket ground was always a battle field."

I visited Viv's mother, saw the humble upbringing and his love for the old neighbourhood (he never deserted his friends even though some of them were Rastafarians). I realised that under the image of a tough guy, he was truly a down to earth person.

Gautam Bhattacharya, Antigua PHOTOGRAPHS GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA

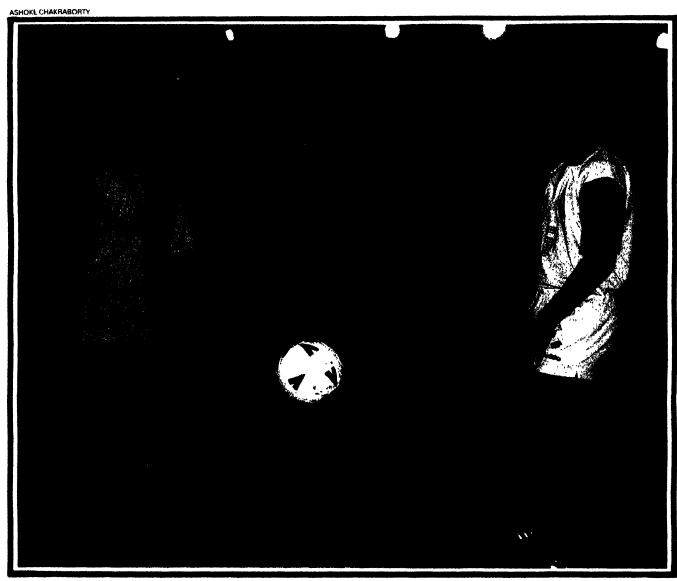


The cricket-crazy Antiguan could easily be compared to a Calcutta football buff. Any time of the day they can be seen and if not seen, then they are heard from a distance. They're always involved in animated discussions involving cricket and as I found out, there can be no cricket talk beyond their own Vivvy.

Mind you, they are not just fanatics but do know what they are talking popularity ratings here, amongst modern day cricketers. The fact is his century against India wasn't followed up with the customary response a home team batsman would expect. Lara himself maintained that St John's was one of his most favourite grounds, "I rarely failed here. Period. Hinting, about the lukewarm response he evokes here, these days.

The hatred has been fuelled by

ALL IN GOOD FUN



A rare sight indeed! Tennis pro LEANDER PAES and football whiz kid BAICHUNG BHUTIA recently played together in an exhibition match in Calcutta

BCCI, Be Bold

A series of drastic and shock remedies are required to put the ailing Indian cricket back on the tails.

- The BCCI must be bold and ruthless in matters of team selection. The Board must pay more attention to the aptitude and merit of each player and totally ignore the zonal quota system.
- 2. Tendulkar's performance as captain has been unimaginative and unimpressive. It is surprising that known critics like Gavaskar and Shastri have been rather careful about criticising our star batsman. I strongly feel that Azharuddin should be redrafted as the captain of the team.
- 3. Consistency should be maintained in the composition of the team. The youngsters in the side should be given more opportunities to establish themselves.
- 4. Pitches in India must undergo a virtual transformation from being batsman-friendly to fast and bouncier strips. This would give our batsman invaluable experience to improve their technique against the rising ball.

 5. An impartial group comprising former eminent cricketers should be constituted and assigned the task of unearthing new talent.

 6. The Board should appoint a foreign coach to mould the team into a winning combination.

C. R. PANCHANATHAN, New Dulhi.



Congrats

ONGRATULATIONS to the Sri Lankans for coming out with flying colours in the Pepsi Independence Cup. The yeoman service rendered by Sanath Jayasuriya for his team was invaluable. It has become his proclivity to score quick runs. Since the Wills World Cup, he has emerged as the most consistent and potent batsman in Arjuna Ranatunga's arsenal.

Jayasuriya epitomises the fruit of hard work and dedication. Sri Lankans will not mind if he continues this kind of performance, as long as he foxes the opposition.

AMIT BHATTACHARYYA, Tinsulga

ICC Supremo

THE interview "Asia is the new power in World Cricket" is really an exclusive focus by Sportsworld, May '97.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the successor to Clyde Walcott, is the first Indian, to become the ICG supremo. Being Indians, we are proud of you, Mr.Dalmiya.

I think, you have some specific programmes in your mind in the interest of world cricket. On behalf of the cricket-lovers in India here are some suggestions for you: Firstly, the 5-day Test cricket is no longer entertaining to us, because most of the matches end in tame draws. So, now it is time to ponder on how to bring back the golden age of Test cricket.

Secondly, a cricket series between the two countries should not include one-dayers because throughout the year limited overs cricket tournaments are held in different countries.

We wish you all success.

AMIYA K SAHA, Chinsurah.

READERS' FORUM

Readers are invited to send 800-word articles on any sperting subject. It could be on something that outrages you; on something that is applitive or negative about sport.

Piease send in your entries on typed double spaced foolscap paper (on one side of the page only), along with your name, address, age and passport size shotograph to:

READERS' FORUM, Sportsworld, 6 Prafulia Sarkar Street, Calcatta - 700 001.

SPIN VISI

After a stunning debut at the international level, spinner SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ is determined to leave his mark on the game

AQLAIN MUSHTAQ belongs to that exclusive club of players who can win matches on their own. His rise to the top has been meteoric; he needed only 53 one day internationals to capture 100 wickets. This is a world record because it is the shortest span in which any cricketer has acheived this feat.

Even during the days when he served as an apprentice in the Pakistan Youth team, there were signs of the lantastic talent that lay within. A tally of 52 first class wickets in his first season saw him graduate to the Pakistan A side. Later, he was selected for the tour to New Zealand.

A sensational 7/70 in the first Test at Hamilton and nine victims in the third against the Kiwis at Napier showcased to the world and the Pakistani selectors in particular the ability of Saqlain. The selectors immediately chose him to represent the country's senior team when they took on Sri Lanka. Four wickets for 107 runs was Saqlain's grateful answer to the selectors' faith in him.

On meeting him you can sense a quiet sense of determination and self belief. He explained that patience, the ability to maintain one's composure over long spells, and the ability to take rough treatment in his stride are his forte.

Slightly built, with long wiry fingers, Saqlain has a lovely loop to his bowling along with a faster delivery, making it one of the most appealing sights in modern cricket. He uses his body to impart spin and complements it with a tight line and length. There's also a new addition to his armoury—the ball that deviates in the air and straightens up after piching on the leg

stump. This delivery has flummoxed some of the world's best batsmen.

If Shane Warne, Mushtaq Ahmed, Anil Kumble and Co. has made spin bowling a breathtaking, edge-of-the-seat stuff, Saqlain Mushtaq is not far behind. That he is optimistic of reaching those lofty standards is pretty evident as he starts talking. Here are some excerpts from the interview:

How would you evaluate your performances till date?

My performances for Pakistan has been quite satisfactory. Like any other Pakistan cricketer, I have trained very hard. Since the days of cricket at school, M.A.O. college, U-19 level and Pakistan Youth, I have travelled a long long way. I've learned a lot and tried to produce my best at every given opportunity.

How does it feel to hold a world record?

I've worked hard, really hard on my game. What has come is basically the

"A positive frame of mind is of prime importance especially when one gets badly punished by the opposition."
—Saglain Mushtag

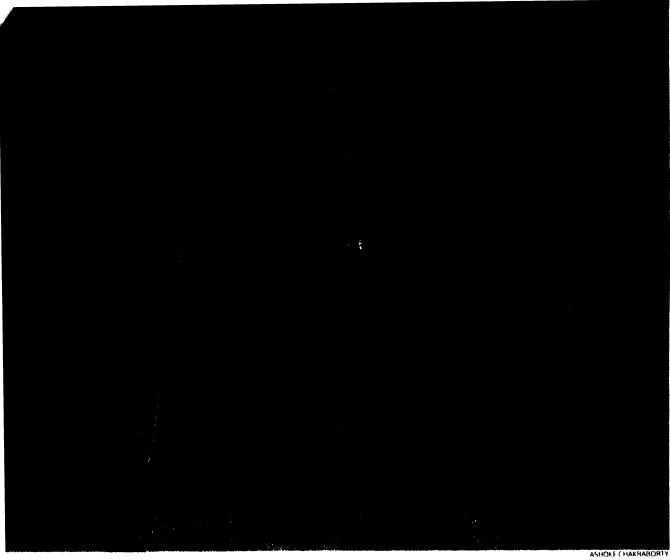
rewards. But sincerely speaking, there is no special feeling for it. Maybe, I was destined for this. I've always done my job and left the rest to Allah.

What do you think should be the attributes of a top-class spinner? A spinner should have his variations, should know how to use the crease. The increasing number of one dayers, undoubtedly, makes the job difficult, but these days, one is groomed to adjust according to the demands.

A positive frame of mind is of prime importance specially when one gets badly punished by the opposition. It is this 'will power' which enables one to bounce back with a wicket or two during the crucial stages of a match.

You've been a big hit at the international level, specially with your magic delivery. Are you thinking of more variety?
Yes, definitely. It's fun trying out new

things. Summer cricket in England



Zaheer Abbas (left) and Saqlain Mushtaq chatting with each other in a five star hotel in Calcutta

will provide a great chance to sharpen my skills, implement something new. As a bowler, you must always have the curiosity to work out on new aspects.

Do you have a contract to play the English summer with a recognised county club, out there?

The young Pakistani cricketers who are in the process of learning the game mostly spend their summer in England. I have played for some minor county clubs in the past few seasons. It was a good learning process. As always, I'll be out in the U.K. this summer. Let's see if any big offers come my way.

What was the incident that inspired you most to take up cricket?

'92 had a great impact on me. I had always loved the game and played with a great deal of dedication, but after '92 I became determined that I would play alongside my heroes one day. Thanks to Allah, the opportunity came and I was ready to grab it with both hands.

Has there been anyone who played a major influence in shaping your career?

All my colleagues have been of great help True, there were many influences like Akram, Wagar, Inzamam and Salim Malik, but, in the end I adjusted the way it suited me best. But I'm thankful to them for the enormous support they've given me.

Having shared the record 8th wicket stand with Wasim Akram The World Cup triumph of Pakistan in | against Zimbabwe, you've been

branded as a bowler with the ability to make some runs. So, have you concentrated more on your batting?

Unfortunately, I haven't had much opportunities in the last season. This summer I will try and improve on that. In modern-day cricket, a team needs more of all-rounders than specialists, so I would like to see myself not just as a bowler but as an all-rounder.

What are your plans for the future?

I don't rely on long term goals. Rather, I believe in taking one step at a time. For the moment I would like to win a few matches for Pakistan so that I will recognised as a quality spin bowler. I also want to serve my country with dedication and purpose.

Interviewed by Rica Roy

LIFE LINES

SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ



Most memorable day

When I heard I was playing in a Test for the first time.

Worst day's cricket None.

Cricketing heroes

Wasim Akram, Imran Khan and Javed Miandad

Current players admired
Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed

Young cricketers for the future Shahid Afridi, Hasan Raza, Saleem Elahi **Cricketing ambition**

To play as long as possible for my country

Favourite grounds

My club and college ground

Least favourite grounds
Peshawar...though I got a hat trick

Main complaint about cricket Absence of a cricket academy

Special hobbies and interests Listening to music and meeting friends How do you like to spend your spare time?

With my family and friends

Other sports or games followed Football. Tennis

Other sports people admired Mohammad Ali, Jansher Khan, Jehangir Khan

Favourite music Slow music

Favourite food
Aaloo methi, Paratha
COURTESY THE PAKISTAN CRICKETER

The state of the s

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the former Asian Games gold medallist golfer who leads a quiet life with his family ...

approach the door to Lakshman Singh's ground-floor flat. He has a nice lawn in front. A Maruti car is parked to one side. It is a quiet area although he stays in a lane, a mere fifty metres off busy Ballygunje Circular Road in Calcutta. As I am about to press the bell, I can see through the window, Lakshman Singh sitting on an armchair, a white lamp shade on, black reading glasses perched on his nose, reading the newspaper. It is a picture of tranquil domesticity.

I ring the bell. He comes to the door. He is tall and handsome, with a charming smile. I enter the house. It is a drawing-cum-dining room. It has been beautifully decorated: there are paintings and framed pictures on the wall; the furniture consists of low





AN SINGH

FACT FILE

NATIONAL CAREER

Runner-up	Ali India Jr. Championship	1968			
Winner	Maharashtra Open	1971			
Winner	Western India Amateur	1971, 1973,			
		1975 & 1976			
Winner	Eastern India Amateur	1974,1976, 1979			
	,	1980, 1982 & 1992			
Runner-up	Northern India Amateur	1972			
Winner	M.A.M. Muthian Cup (South)	1975			
Wiener	All India Championship	1978, 1982 & 1987			
Winner	Western India Open	1975 & 1976			
Winner	Eastern India Open	1976			
,					

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

117 1 2111012 1 30 121101 0 121101	1911			
Ceylon Amateur Golf Championship	1972 & 1973			
Represented India in the Asian Amateur Team Championships	1973, 1977 & 1979			
Member of the Indian Team in the Asian Amateur Team Championsihps in Djakarta	1973 India won			
Represented India in the World Amateur Team Championships	1978, 1980 & 1988			
Quarter-finalist, British Amateur Golf Championships at Hillside	1979			
Member of the Indian Team during the IX Asian Games - New Delhi - 1982	Double Gold Medal Winner (Team & Individual)			
Represented India in Indo-French Golf International in Chantilly, France	1988			
Accompanied the Indian Team as non-playing Captain for the Hiroshima Asian Games	1994			

Team finished in 4th position.

Winner of the Arjuna Award: 1982

armchairs and a soft sofa. The walls are painted in white. There are a few lampshades placed on low tables. The lighting is muted and soothing. The flat gives an impression of neatness, simplicity and lots of space.

We sit down on the sofa. His two sons Arjun and Ranjeet come in from the bedroom. I am introduced to them. They are studying in Class X and VI, respectively.

I start with the standard question: Can you give us an idea of your daily life?

He replies in a clear voice: "I get up at about 7.30, laze around, have a bath, have my breakfast and by 9.15 a.m., I leave for the office. I work in Williamson Magor, (the tea company) as a senior executive, looking after projects. Recently, I set up the Assam Valley School. It is a boarding school

from Class IV to XII. It started in 1995 but I have been involved in the project since 1989. We've got about 390 students so far.

What is the fees for the students?

Not much. It's just Rs. 45,000 a year. How come nobody has heard about the school?

Well, so far, we have not really advertised it. Most of the students have been enrolled through word of mouth....

I work till about 5.30. Then I come back home. I sit and chat with the family. Sometimes we go out for dinner or for a movie, or go visiting friends.

What about golf?

I play golf only on the weekends. But if a tournament is coming up, I may go during the week. (The very next day, Lakshman Singh, with a card of 76, enabled his office team to win the Merchánts' Cup golf competition).

Golf is an addictive sport. How come you are not playing so intently any more?

I have diverted all my attention to my son Arjun and also to Ranjeet. I am imparting my knowledge to them. But that's no reason to give up. It's just that I have been preoccupied with work.

What do you think of the golf scene in India at present?

It's really good. Although I have missed the bus. The way I look at it, had I been born twenty years later, I would have been at the right place at the right time.

During your time, what was it that you missed?

To start off, there was no money in golf then. At that time, one got into golf because your parents gave you the opportunity to try it out or you were living next to a golf club. It was difficult to take it up as a career. I played golf as an amateur and I enjoyed it. And that's the way it remained.

How did this awareness of golf come up in India?

I think the initial boost was given in 1982 during the Asian Games in New

Delhi. That was the first time that golf had been introduced at the Games. I not only won the individual gold but we also won the team championship gold. Rajiv Mohta won an individual silver. We won three out of four medals to be won. (For Singh's career statistics, see box). That was when the media gave the game a huge thrust. People started talking about golf. After all, we had won gold medals at the Asian Games....but it really shot up in the late Eighties. With 'Star TV' coming in and showing so much of international golf; then Indian companies realised that they could get a lot of advertising mileage out of it.

What is the most important quality that a golfer needs?

A good golfer needs mental strength. At the highest level, virtually every golfer is as good as the

Giving tips to his son Arjun



other. It is the mental strength that makes all the difference. When you play a shot, you have a long way to walk. During that time, all sorts of thoughts can come into the mind. So. it is important to stay very locussed. You mustn't think of too many things

With his family at home

I think the concentration level should be very high.

In golt, you are playing with nature. And nature changes every single day. Why, it changes live times in a day. So,



every shot in golf is different. You could be in the same spot but you find the pin in a different position. Or you find the pin in the same position and you may approximately be in the same area where you have been last week but you find the wind condition is different.

That is why golfers mature late. You become a better golfer only with experience. The more you play, the more you learn. Unfortunately, as you get older, your body goes. In my experience, the peak years are from 27-37. Till then, you are still learning.

After 37, what decline takes place?

It's a physical decline. Your muscles lose their speed. There are exceptions like Lee Trevino, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Hale Irwin who played right into their fifties. But very few win anything, even in their forties. They are playing but they are not winning.

What has been your decline?

My decline is that, at 46, I am not as psychically fit as I was ten years ago. When I want to hit a really hard shot, I just cannot execute it. My mind knows what to do but somehow my body does not respond.

Lakshman's wife Lata comes into the drawing room. She is dressed in a white salwar kameez and high heels. She is slim and has kept her figure well. Both husband and wife have a remarkable sense of camaraderie; they seem more like friends than married people with two teenage children. She teases him for allowing photographs to be taken with his specs on. He smiles and says he needs spectacles now. She counters that by saying why is it necessary to give an impression of being old. It is amazing to think that they have been married for 20 long years now.

There is a painting of hers on the dining room wall, done in her early twenties, with shoulder-length black hair and an attractive lace accentuated by a sharp nose. Viewing that painting, you could understand





why Lakshman Singh selected Lata as his wife.

What about the current golfing scene in India? Do we have the chance to make an impact internationally?

We have a lot of very good amateurs who have turned professional. They have been exposed to a lot of golf, not only in India but also in the Asian Circuit. There are players like Jeev Milkha Singh, Arjun Atwal, Gaurav Ghei, Uttam Munde, and Amandeep Johl. We also have Rajiv Mohta who has just turned professional.

Is Jeev Milkha Singh any good? He's been getting a lot of publicity.

Oh yes, he is very good. But how good he will get, one does not know. He has a good mental strength and is also a very talented player. But at the top level, it is very competitive. You may be a top-level player but it does not mean that you will win every tournament. Martina Hingis can win 31 matches in a row but that does not happen in golf. In golf, the top player in the world will play about 20 tournaments in a year and he will be lucky if he can win three.

Why has a great champion like Seve Ballesteros faded away?

I think it is all mental. He was a very natural player but now he has become too technical. Also, like I said earlier, it has to do with ageing, with biochemistry.

What else do you do? Any hobbies?

Oh, I forgot to mention it, but I am with the selection committee of the Indian Golf Union. We select amateur teams to the World Championships, the Asian Games, the Asian Championships etc. We also select teams going to various countries in international matches etc.

Do you feel like playing competitive golf again? If there is a senior Tour or something like that.

Well, it depends on my motivation. At the present moment, I don't have any motivation. Maybe, later, I could change. I still have another four years to hit 50 and I might take part in the senior tour.

ROM the silver-haired
Maurice Herzog, whose 1950
climb of Annapurna was the
first ascent of an 8,000-m
peak, to sunburnt Ang Rita, just back
from Everest, whose summit he has
trod a record 10 times, the cornucopia
of climbing talent and sweep of
generations was impressive at the
Everest Day meet this year in
Kathmandu.

However, 44 years after Everest was first conquered on May 29, 1953, the generation of mountaineers of that era as well as later ones are none too happy about the crowds of climbers repeating routes on the highest mountains. The veterans say the crowds are leading to litter, deforestation, steeper peak booking fees, and a rush to climb for recognition and not for love of the sport itself.

Ian McNaught-Davis, president of the International Union of Alpinist Associations, apex body of climbing, articulated it best by saying, "Following in others' footsteps is not adventure." As a young man looking to climb mountains "with a reputation as unclimbable," he had seen the future of climbing as "small teams dedicated to difficult climbs."

Though it has not turned out quite like that, McNaught-Davis said,

young climbers in the US and Europe were now beginning to set up tough routes on unexplored mountains in Peru, Patagonia, Morocco and Indonesia.

One of the supreme practitioners of such climbing was at the meet—Peter Habeler. His partnership with Reinhold Messner changed the face of mountaineering. Concentrating on rapid, lightweight ascents of the highest and most difficult peaks, without oxygen, the duo revolutionised Himalayan climbing with their oxygenless ascent of Everest in 1978.

Habeler, who has trained mountain guides and been one himself, was particularly concerned over the issue of guiding on 8,000-m peaks. Though Sherpas have always guided on Everest, a controversy has grown recently with Westerners guiding on the Himalayan giants for a fee. Relative novices feel encouraged to attempt the highest mountains in the company of such accomplished guides.

Habeler insists that a guide can be reduced to looking after himself solely because of the debilitating effects of cold and altitude on the upper reaches of the highest mountains. However, to minimise accidental deaths in the Himalayas, Habeler says, "A very high level of instruction is needed to turn



SUMMIT



A seminar in Kathmandu by leading mountaineers emphasised the need to prevent environmental damage in the Himalayas as well as the necessity to have fully trained guides



out Himalayan guides, higher than in the Alps."

Herzog, who has watched mountaineering evolve over half a century, also said, "The time has come to have a school for Himalayan guides, including Sherpas, along the lines of the one run at Chamonix." The Chamonix school, whose director, Jean Coudray, was also at the meet, is one of the most reputed in the Alps. They have a fine tradition of mountain guiding.

The rising cost of expeditions is an issue with wide ramifications. Though teams are growing smaller, with alpine-style climbing catching on, steep royalty fees for peaks push up expenditure and increase the need to seek out sponsors. Climbers say it is extremely difficult to find sponsors. Worse, sponsors sometimes set terms.

"Sometimes, the sponsor specifies the mountain or route to be climbed," said Herzog, urging young climbers to find a way to preserve their independence.

One reason young climbers are moving off to Peru, Patagonia, Morocco and Indonesia is that these countries are yet to start charging peak booking fees.

But the Himalayas should not be out of reach for accomplished young climbers with scant resources, insisted

Though teams are growing smaller, the steep royalty fees for peaks push up expenditure and increase the need to seek out sponsors

McNaught-Davis. He suggested Nepal open its 1,300 virgin peaks to young mountaineers at a low fee. But, at the same time, the Westerners were deeply sympathetic to Nepal's need for revenue. They were aware that the \$90 million it earns from tourism is mainly from mountaineering and trekking.

Dipendra Dakal, secretary of the Nepal ministry of tourism, said the primary aim behind increasing the royalty for Everest five-fold from \$10,000 to \$50,000 some years ago was to check the crowd on the mountain. Instead, Nepal was accused of being greedy. Dakal defended Nepal by saying that 60 per cent of the revenue generated is ploughed back into economic and rural development in the mountain areas

The Westerners were also concerned over deforestation. "Top soil is washed away into rivers. So river beds rise and this in turn leads to floods, which destroy crop fields," said Herzog.

He was joined by M.S. Gill, president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, in emphasising that dams would provide sorely-needed electricity in Nepal but the dams must be well-planned. "Once you put the dam there, you cannot take it away," said Gill.

Gill stressed on a long-term perspective in all spheres. "Periodic cleaning of Everest and other mountains is not the solution. There has to be sustained cleaning for it to work," he said.

Conservation extends to preserving mountain faces and not altering routes. Ashraf Aman of the Alpine Club of Pakistan and the first Pakistani to climb K2, called on the mountaineering fraternity to leave only footprints on mountains.

He was echoed by Ying Dao Shui of the Chinese Mountaineering Association who stressed the Himalayan countries' responsibility to protect their heritage and use technological and scientific innovations for environmental protection.

Text and photographs Yana Banerjee-Bey

ISPARIS BURNING?

Underdog IVA
MAJOLI set the
French Open on fire
when she won the
women's singles title
against all odds

HE was expected to achieve her dreams a little earlier in life. It may be difficult to see what prompted those expectations, why others volunteered to draw up her tennis timetable, but the important fact is that today Iva Majoli hardly regrets where she is, now that she has achieved her first Grand Slam win.

"I know people were saying that they thought I could have achieved something in the French Open when I was 16 or 17," Majoli said, candidly, "but I am here now; I am only 19."

Yes, she is here now. She has arrived. The three years that stood between the expectations and the reality would mean nothing if her winning ways continue.

Trouble is tennis is in the midst of a teenage tornado. Teenagers storming the circuit with awesome power and aggression is the way of tennis in the 1990s. And one reason why they thought Majoli was a trifle too late to arrive could be that she modelled herself on the great Monica Seles, who unleashed the teenage tide.

"I wanted to be like Monica, with



Iva Majoli with the French Open Trophy

the hair and everything, because she was the best there was." Majoli grunted like Seles, and copied everything from her strokes to her streaked platinum hair. The only difference was while Seles racked up Grand Slam titles, Majoli played on the satellite circuit in the US against opponents twice her age and weight. Her results were not spectacular, but, without a doubt, she made a very positive impression with her ferocious energy and determination.

The latter quality, of course, was strong enough for making a few painful sacrifices in the pursuit of excellence and newer horizons. The Croatian civil war forced her to leave her country, her older sister, Nina, a bedroom stuffed with dolls, and school friends she would not see for years. But the opportunities that started coming were opening up limitless possibilities. Leading sports management group IMG sponsored her move to the legendary Nick

skills in her very own style.

Her father used to say that all that mattered was improving, not necessarily winning. And that worked, as Majoli faced new challenges, although she faltered at times, but forged ahead with her morale as buoyant as ever. In the very first year, she raised her computer ranking from 798 to 50. More importantly, by now, she had cast aside her Seles spell. She realised she wasn't a left-hander like Seles; once she started winning, she began developing her own style. "I just wanted to be me."

The grunt was no longer heard; the bleached blonde hair simply disappeared. And her foray up to the French Open quarterfinals in '93, brought her instant international recognition: Newcomer of the Year. This was her first appearance in a Grand Slam event; here she forced the top seed Steffi Graf to a second set tie-break. One could clearly see the

Dreams are all that matters to Iva Majoli at the moment. She is out to fulfil them one by one, as many as she can. As she says, "I'm the only one who can make my dreams come true."



Bollettieri tennis academy in Florida. For a young tennis aspirant from the wartorn Croatia, it was an unimaginable honour. A dream was just beginning to come true.

So, Iva Majoli resolved to overcome the hardship, the pain, and pursue her goal. "It was hard," she would later reminisce. "But we knew that Monica (Seles) had been to Bollettieri's and that if I wanted to become a top pro like her I would have to do the same." But what was most comforting was her father's assurance. "My dad told me that as soon as I got good enough, we could go home."

But being in the US had its disadvantages too. Being based in Florida, Majoli missed the premier European junior events, the conventional path to the top of the tennis world. But Majoli did not balk at the challenge; she concentrated almost entirely on improving her

shape of things to come.

Majoli was now sure that she could take on the megastars, the very best. When she faced Gabriela Sabatini next year, in the Family Circle Magazine Cup at Hilton Head, she beat her. She wrapped up the year swiftly thereafter, having reached three semi finals and three finals to end 1994 at number 13 in the world rankings.

Clearly, Majoli had now lived up to her father's expectations, fulfilled his one home-coming condition: "As soon as you got good enough, we could go home." This was good enough, yes, this indeed was. The million-dollar endorsement deals that started pouring in gave her family the financial security and the chance to go home.

And towards greater glory. A balanced routine laid down by her parents began to pay off. No late

nights, no boyfriend on tour—only weekend skiing trips to Austria with him—and training, intense training. Iva Majoli on her way towards gaining a great many honours.

She captured her third tour title in Zurich, beating her long time rival Jana Novotna. Then came her first car, for winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany. A fourth title confirmed her status as Number 4 in the world.

By this time, Majoli began to realise that she would have to do some giant-killing to look like a genuine contender for the top spot. She also knew that women's tennis was quickly becoming crowded with a number of formidable players. This was the time she would have to make her mark. Make herself look like a real threat to the more established and celebrated names in the tennis world. Her most important target this year obviously was the French Open. She clinched it, scared her attversaries, and most importantly fulfilled yet another dream of hers.

Dreams are all that matters to Iva Majoli at the moment. She is out to fulfil them one by one, as many as she can. Because she believes that everyone must have a dream, and she also believes, "I am the only one who can make my dreams come true."

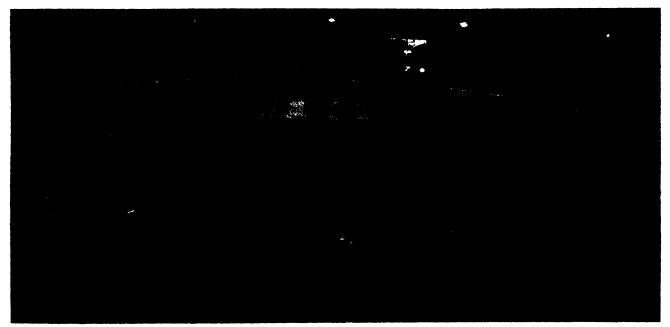
I am not sure if, on the eve of the French Open final, Majoli had heard Chris Evert commentating on NBC television and saying: "There is no way Iva can beat Martina (Hingis)." If she did, then I am sure she must have been dreaming about making that great predecessor apologise in public for having underestimated her. Yes, it did look like a dream come true, when the legendary Chris Evert, five times French Open champion, made her first apology, as she graciously presented Majoli with the Suzanne Lenglen trophy.

Iva Majoli has come of age. "I like to party, I like to have fun, which perhaps is why when people expected me to win a Grand Slam at 16 or 17, I really didn't feel ready for that."

So, her time has come. And she got what she so richly deserved.

Suprakash Ghoshal, London

freewheeling



THERE used to be a time when I used to start reading the newspaper from its last page—the sports page. Now I start with the first page of the business section.

Those responsible for this transition are the people who make the sports pages of the paper. Except for the occasional interview, the sports pages have lost their sparkle. There is no column worth reading, there is no report which tickles the mind enough for one to ask, 'I saw it on TV last night, but I didn't see it this way'. Most important, there is no line to turn over in one's mind, there is no memorable phrase to secrete away in one's notebook and no article to cut out and paste in the scrapbook. It is a crisis of substance and style.

I see this right across the media in the country. As a dedicated cricket reader I read more of Khalid Mohamed in *The Times of India* than its sports editor; I read more of Tavleen Singh in *The Indian Express* than its principal cricket writer; I read M. I Akbar more regularly in *The Asian Age* than all their sports writers combined.

Sports writing in India is dead. Irony. Especially at a time when the sports staff of most newspapers is higher than ever before and you have papers like The Economic Times

View from the Press Box at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta. Sports writing in India, according to the author, is in serious decline

carrying a page on sport and a Gavaskar column thrown in as an incentive. There are columns and columns of matter, but no soul. There are lines and lines of detail, but no flourish.

Sir Neville Cardus, the high priest of cricket writing, put it neatly: "It wouldn't satisfy me just to write: 'Denis Compton came to the wicket when the score was 84 for two. He completed his 50 in 65 minutes, including four accomplished leg-glances.' That wouldn't interest me at all. I want to get to the quiddity. I want to get to the essence of this man. I want to find out why Denis Compton scores his runs in a different manner and style from Bill Edrich. They are two different personalities as different as Kreisler was from Heifetz. What is it that makes these two cricketers different? I want to relate the game to the man himself, and that's what I have done all my life.

"But the game of cricket has changed. The public does not seem to want to go to County Championship matches; instead they pack the grounds on Saturdays and Sundays for the highly competitive one-day matches. In limited-over cricket, it doesn't matter how you make your strokes: you or I could go out and flash our bats, swipe at the ball, even play cross-bat—and it wouldn't matter. Everyone would cheer.

"What used to interest the public was the match within the match —Larwood bowling at Bradman; Tate bowling at Hobbs. Then your imagination would take flight, and cricket writers such as Robertson-Glasgow, Beau Vincent and ACM Croome of The Times, and myself, in my own modest way —we lured people to Old Trafford and Lord's, just as music critics helped to lure people to a Toscanini concert.

"Emmott Robinson never played for England, but the crowd packed Old Trafford to see him play —partly because I had given them a vivid picture of him, not only as a cricketer but also as a *character*. I got to know these players and in time I came to see them in apotheosis. If people say to me, 'You invented Emmott Robinson I reply, 'No, I didn't invent Emmott Robinson. I *enlarged* him.

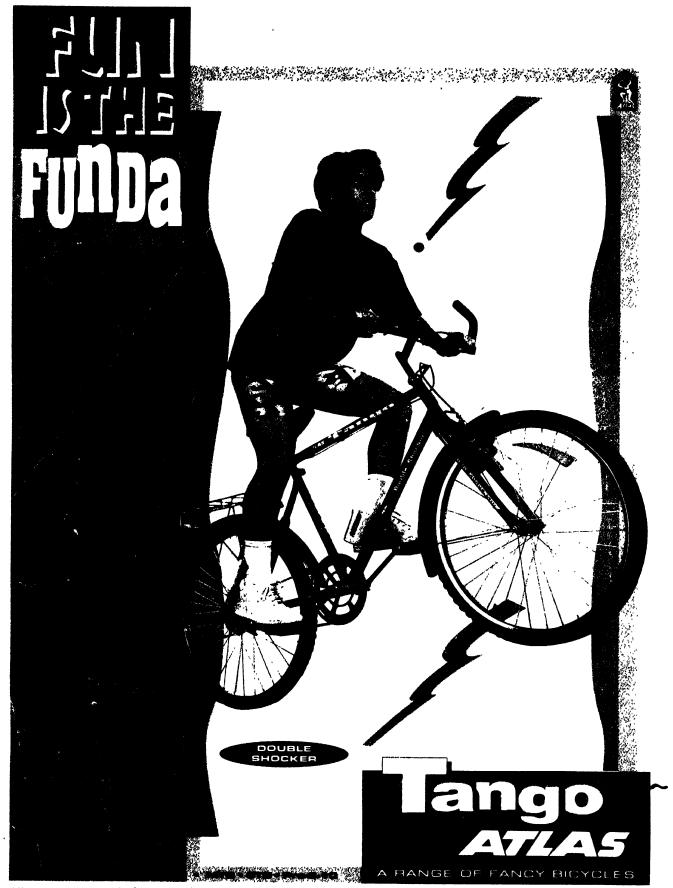
There is a university course in those lines for all who make the sports pages of our country's newspapers.

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SACHIN TENDULKAR: WOES OF CAPTAINCY

SUPERMI

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IS TOO MUCH POWER KILLING TENNIS?

As racket technology continues to improve tremendously, players now depend on sheer power to win points

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HE'S HOTI

Sanath Jayasuriya is one of the most exciting batsman in the world today

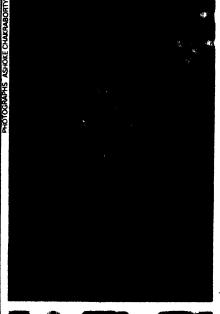
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THE EMERALD OF THE ISLE

Susantika Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka created history when she won a silver medal in the 200m at the World Athletics Championships in Athens

COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF SANATH JAYASURIYA BY KAMAL JULKA AND INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF SACHIN TENDULKAR BY GEORGE FRANCIS/SCORP NEWS POSTER PHOTOGRAPH BY RAJESH KUMAR







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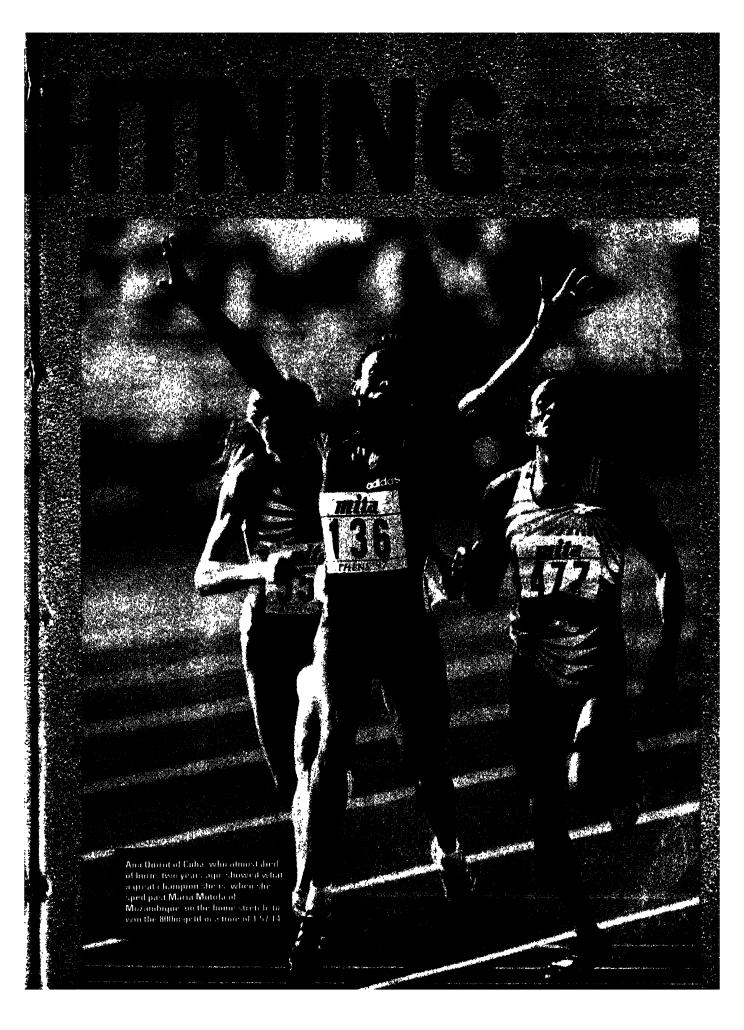
SACHIN TENDULKAR: WOES OF CAPTAINCY

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FOCUS ON DEBASHISH MOHANTY

Editor: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Printed and published for Ananda Bazar Patrika Ltd... by-Bijlit Kurner Basu at its press at 6 & 9 Prafulia Sarkar Street and also printed at Ananda Offset Private Limited, Plot 50/7, Site IV, Sehibabad Industrial Area Ghaziabad-201010, Utter Pradesh. Air surcharge for Srinagar and Ex-Delhi and Tripura 20 palse. North Eastern States 25 palse Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago for once, let his feet do the talking, rather than his mouth, when he won his first major championship gold with a victory in the 200m in a time of 20.04. It helped that Michael Johnson was off form and did not take part







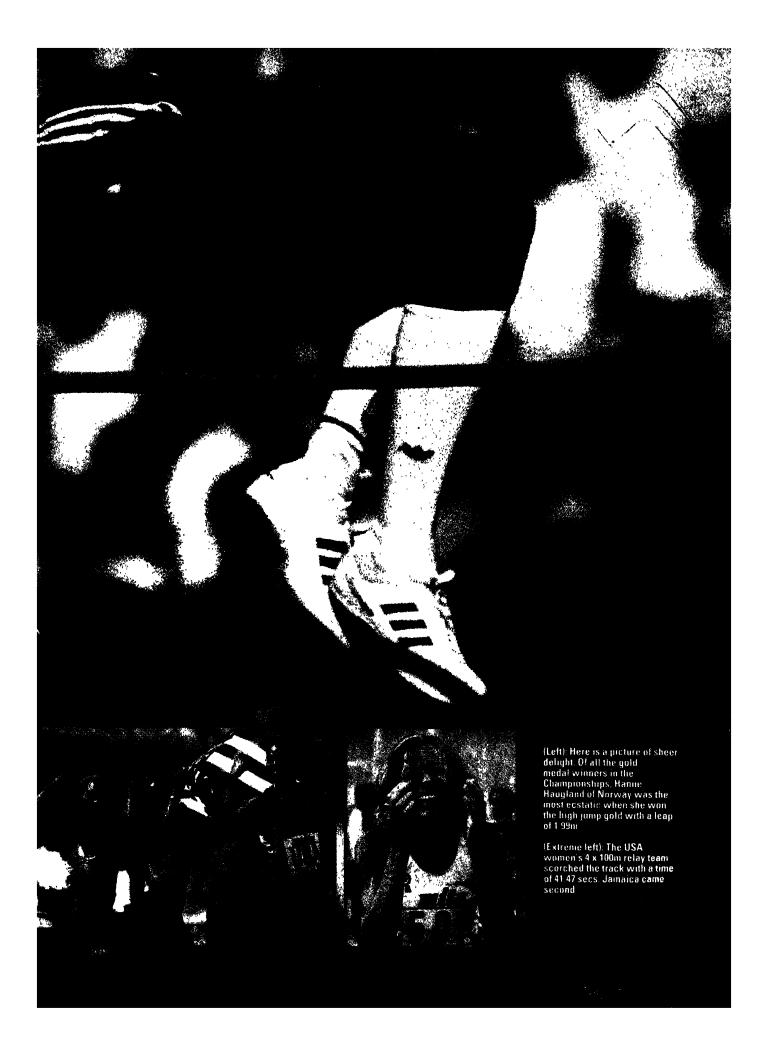


The freeworks at the opening ceremony sylve leteck place at the accient. More than to both an extreme More than to both an extreme, and athlete from over 200 countries were present. As outside that our to be a contract, the countries were present.

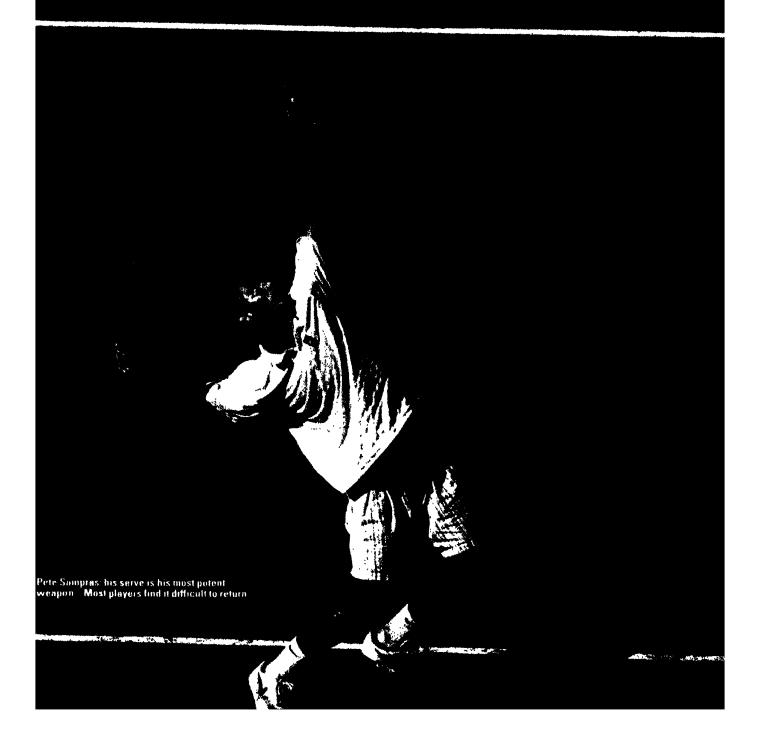








IS TOO MUCH POWER KILLING



AST-FORWARD to the 2020
Wimbledon Championships.
Ace Jordan, the 6'9" son of
basketball legend Air Jordan,
is literally taking apart 7'1" Killer
Ivanadisco in the fifth set of their
vicious final on Centre Court.

Although Killer earned his nickname by beheading a net judge and a doubles opponent with errant 175 miles per hour serves, he's taking a terrible beating now. Ace has knocked him down 14 times—11 requiring emergency medical

BY PAUL FEIN

chessboard skills.

"Don't blame today's players. They are simply maximising the potential of the lethal equipment provided for their use. Yet they, too, are becoming as bored as the spectators by the relentless march of power.

"Unless something is done, and done quickly, the whole fragile edifice of professional tennis could come crashing down in a chain reaction like Becker's 114 serves.

A century ago, the serve was merely intended to put the ball in play; now it frequently ends the point. And when it doesn't, sharp first volleys often do. The points were so short and quick in that terribly dull Wimbledon final that the ball was actually in play only 9 minutes and 20 seconds of the total 2-hour, 33-minute court time.

Even the winner, Stich, confided: "I think high-powered rackets are destroying tennis and making it really boring. When you saw the matches

NIS?

As racket technology continues to improve tremendously, players now depend on sheer power to win points. In the process, artistry is being destroyed

treatment—with unblockable rocket serves that smacked him in the groin, mouth, stomach and eye. Bloodied and groggy, Killer finally throws in the towel after holding serve at 21-all, and Ace, with a record-breaking 83 aces, prevails.

Is this future scenario far-fetched? Perhaps. But what if men's tennis keeps evolving from a sport of diverse style and stylists to one of brutish power and vanishing rallics?

A dire warning comes from John Barrett, a 1950s British Davis Cup player and now a respected BBC-TV commentator and journalist. "Today power is all. On every surface, from grass to clay, the modern game is a one-dimensional slugfest, exciting at times, occasionally brilliant, but tediously one-dimensional," writes Barrett in *ITF World of Tennis*.

"Subtlety, finesse, tactical awareness—all those things that made tennis a three dimensional delight—are, at best, only fleetingly observed. Power has killed the artist. There will never be another Santana, Larsen, Pietrangeli, Nastase or McEnroe to delight us with their ACHIONPLUS

this: increasing public boredom, leading to reduced TV air time, resulting in loss of sponsors, which will mean fewer tournaments, less income for players and less money for development programs. The scenario is frighteningly possible."

Even diehard fans concede that towering athletes wielding devastating space-age rackets have turned Wimbledon, tennis' most prestigious spectacle, into little more than a monotonous serving contest. Awesome power thrills the crowd in many sports—the knockout punch in boxing, the home run in baseball and the slam dunk in basketball—but an endless barrage of service aces and winners in tennis disproves Mae West's wisecrack that too much of a good thing is wonderful.

In the 1991 Wimbledon final, in which 6'4" Michael Stich upset 6'3" countryman Boris Becker, Stich served 100 points at an average speed of 112 mph and with a high of 126. Burly Becker, the Wimbledon 'wunderkind' winner in 1985, managed to return only 49 serves. Similarly, Stich returned just 74 of

that McEnroe and Connors played at Wimbledon, that was real tennis. With the wide-bodies, it will get worse. If it was up to me, I would like to go back to the old wooden rackets and play real tennis."

Bjorn Borg, (who failed dismally in his 1991 comeback bid with a ridiculously antiquated Donnay wood racket), Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi and Pat Cash also have advocated returning to wood. But that legislation won't happen, particularly after all the millions of dollars that manufacturers have invested in the current equipment. (The love of the feel of wood and the touch shots that its slower-paced game allows is shared by so many nostalgic Americans that wood-only tournaments have become a recent phenomenon).

If only tennis—like golf, cricket, Formula 1 auto racing and baseball—had foreseen the problems that new equipment technology would bring. Golf didn't allow irons with square grooves. And while baseball permitted the super-powerful aluminium bat in the college ranks,

13



and Arantxa Sanchez who grabbed singles crowns at the 1989 French Open and for precocious Monica Seles, the second-youngest (16) Grand Slam champion this century, at Roland Garros a year later.

Few leading men have switched to the wide-body though. Throughout their pro careers Sampras and two-time Australian and French champion Jim Courier have used a mid-sized (85 sq.in.) 'Wilson Original Pro Staff' that first hit the market in 1984, and they find it potent enough. "I'd rip holes through windscreens with a wide-body," says Courier.

Baseline bashers with two-handed backhands and western forehands, not just mega-servers, were spawned from advances in technology—such as racket materials like kevlar, graphite, boron and titanium; longer strings that created a trampoline effect on the ball and more power; and aerodynamic designs that made for faster swings. Navratilova, Evert and Rosie Casals lament that development, too.

"I'm the last serve and vollever, it seems," said Navratilova after losing the 1991 U.S.Open final to Seles. "But with the way Monica and Jennifer (Capriati) are hitting the ball, there's just not that much variety."

Evert agreed: "It's become a power game. No one is thinking out points. No one is using finesse." How could they though? As Chang points out, "If someone hits a ball 150 miles per hour, you can't finesse that ball." The late, former Wimbledon and U.S.champion and 20-year Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser noted that,"Today's No.100-ranked player is



hitting the ball harder than the top-ranked player of the past."

At the 1993 Lipton Championships symposium that debated whether speed is killing professional tennis,



noted coach Vic Braden suggested that coaches "spend more time developing skills and strategies to counteract the power"—as if this power surge were just another cyclical phase in tennis' evolution. But, as super returner Agassi admits, you can't do anything if you can't even reach Sampras' bullet serves.

Dr Carl Morris, chairman of the statistics department at Harvard University, confirms that if you're on the receiving end of a serve that leaves Sampras' racket at 138 mph, you

have only .55 seconds, barely the blink of an eye, to return it. "Unless you can guess where the ball is going to be, you aren't going to be able to get to it," says Dr Morris.

What makes today's ultra-powerful serving an unprecedented crisis is that gigantic servers aren't the exception but the rule. Mark Philippoussis, Greg Rusedski, Richard Krajicek, Guy Forget, Marc Rosset, Ivanisevic and Stich have exceeded 130 mph and the vast majority of players can "bring it in" at 110 or more mph, including

little (5'8", 150-pound) Chang, who has switched to a longer (28 in.) racket and abandoned his retrieving in favour of The Big Game.

All that power reached an entertainment nadir in the 1994 Sampras-Ivanisevic Wimbledon final where only three of 206 points lasted more than four shots. Fred Perry, the 1930s star, called it "one of the most boring finals in history." Few disagreed. Sampras proved even more oppressively efficient in the 1995 Big W'final, allowing Becker only 24 points in Sampras's 19 service games, and seven of those were doublefaults.

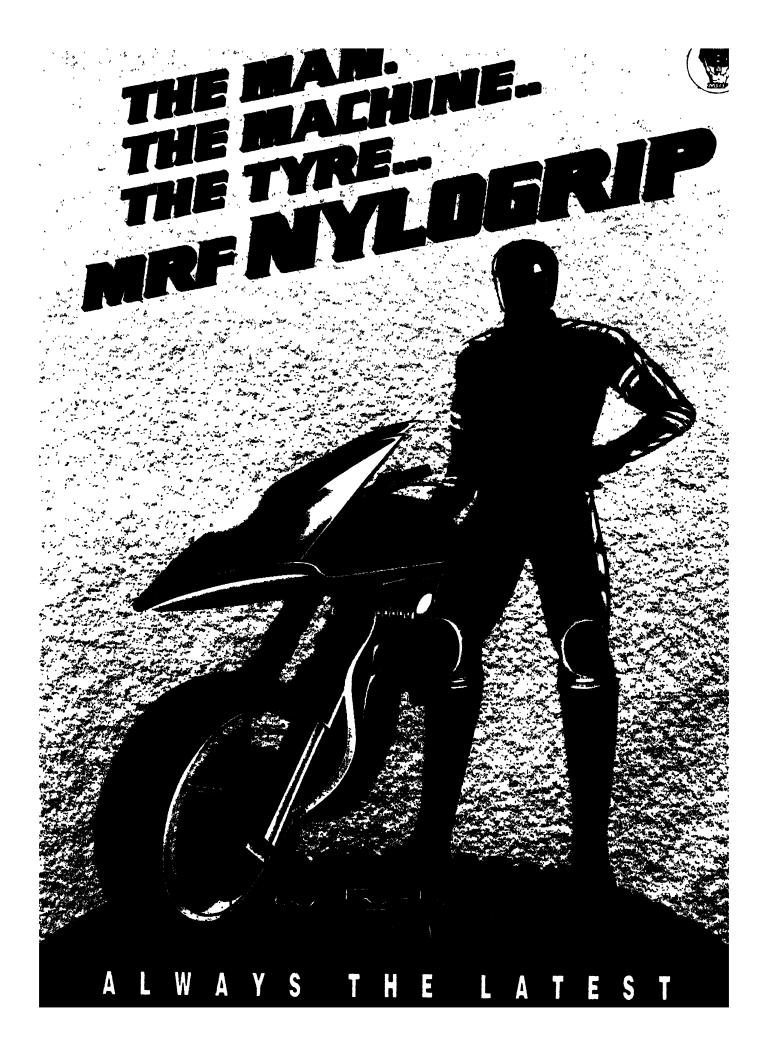
While most tennis insiders are disenchanted with slam-bam tennis, the public remains ambivalent. A 1994 Prince Sports Group survey revealed that 74 per cent thought the game was too power-oriented. However, an earlier poll conducted by USA Today found that 71 per cent opposed limitations on power.

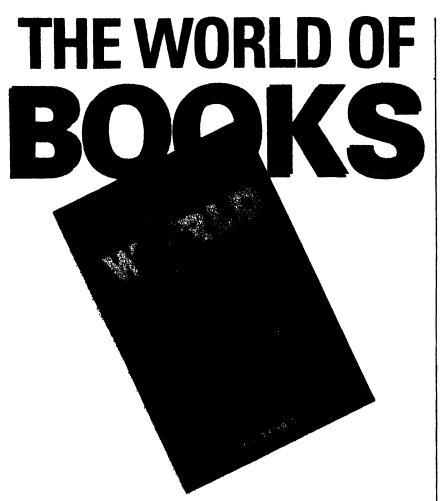
Athletes today are so tall, strong, co-ordinated and well-trained that even with old Dunlop Maxply Fort and Wilson Kramer wood rackets, they likely would whack plenty of aces and groundstroke winners, even on slow clay courts. That reality makes it all the more urgent that tennis' ruling bodies put a limit, not on racket size, width, length or materials, but on racket power. All rackets should be tested—using the same string and tension—and those that propel the ball beyond a certain speed limit should be banned from sanctioned tournament competition.

Ironically, Spencer Gore, the first Wimbledon champion in 1877, decried tennis as monotonous. In 1890 he wrote, "It is it's lack of variety that will prevent lawn tennis in its present form from taking rank among our great games."

Thankfully, Gore played better that he predicted. The sports marketing department at Mercedes-Benz reports that tennis ranks second behind soccer in international sports popularity.

Still the question persists: Will too much power kill tennis?





TITLE: TROUBLED WORLD CUP AUTHOR: K.R.WADHWANEY PUBLISHER: SIDDHARTH PUBLICATIONS

PAGES: 354 **PRICE**: Rs.500.00

ISHIN WADHWANEY'S fourth cricket book in three years is, as always, frank, forthright and fearless. It is an exposure and candid account of the much heralded 1996 Wills World Cup. The behind-the-scenes activities. incidents and role of officials are presented with characteristic candour. All the juicier aspects of the Wills World Cup, the ball tampering, betting and bribery controversies, the Opening Ceremony flop, inconsistent umpiring and the thoughtiess format are meticulously documented.

The appointment of former Chief

Justice Yashwant Vishnu
Chandrachud as a one man inquiry
committee into allegations of betting
and match fixing and reports that the
Mumbai Police have unearthed a
network of bookies who have
confessed to be involved in bribing the
Indian cricket team has made these
issues the biggest topic for
conversation. So naturally the
chapter on betting and bribery in
Wadhwaney's book catches the eye.

Wadhwaney gives some interesting insights on the betting imbroglio that has rocked India and Pakistan's cricket. He quotes former BCCI president and former cabinet minister N.K.P. Salve on this issue.
Wadhwaney writes how Salve once attended a Cabinet Committee meeting called by the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi where another minister told him that Sunil Gavaskar snicked to Jeffery Dujon and got out first ball for zero in the 1983 India vs West Indies Test at Calcutta, to enable his father to

earn a bet of Rs.10 lakhs (a considerable sum in those days).

There are many other juicy titbits in this chapter including pages on the bribery allegation offers against former Pakistan skipper Salim Malik and the nature of betting during the Wills World Cup. Wadhwaney says that in Rajasthan, Rs.30 crores were at stake for the India-Sri Lanka semi final and "many suffered losses as favourites India did not come good."

In the closing paragraphs,
Wadhwaney candidly remarks that
the situation in Indian cricket has
deteriorated because the
powers-that-be including the
Supreme Court have pampered the
star cricketers. He openly hints,
"whether stars admit it or not, some of
them are party to betting syndicates in
Bombay, Sharjah and Karachi."

Some of the allegations are quite damaging. He says, "Some former heroes, it is said, have earned more through betting syndicates than through their cricket/writing and other avocations." Wadhwaney hints that Indian cricket is sinking and becoming very murky and asks for strict remedial action.

Overall, there are 88 chapters and sixteen pages of colour photographs in this fascinating, well researched book. Every aspect of the Wills World Cup, such as the Ad War between Pepsi and Coca Cola, the biased commentary, the importance of the cricket manager is carefully probed.

It is not just a social critique but also a cricket book. Each match is analysed with some interesting comments on, say, the rise of cricket in Holland, Kenya and UAE. There is also a report on the winners of the man of the match awards. Towards the end, there are some interesting chapters on the rise of the Bindra-Dalmiya combine and the historic judgement which enabled the BCCI to break away from the hegemony of Doordarshan.

This book is a brilliant and meticulous critique of behind the scenes activities of the Wills World Cup. with hints of the prevailing social climate which has made cricket such a passion in the subcontinent.

Novy Kapadia

Unique!

was an unique one, since it focussed on the two hottest properties in the world of sport now—Michael Jordan and Anna Kournikova. Though the highlight of the issue was the article on MJ—the greatest, the richest and the most admired athlete on earth.

His 'Airness' skills are a treat to watch; a staunch and dedicated sports personality on whom Chicago Bulls so heavily rely. Truly, a God-gifted super-human and, of course, the "athlete of the century."

FIASAL ZIA, Calcutta

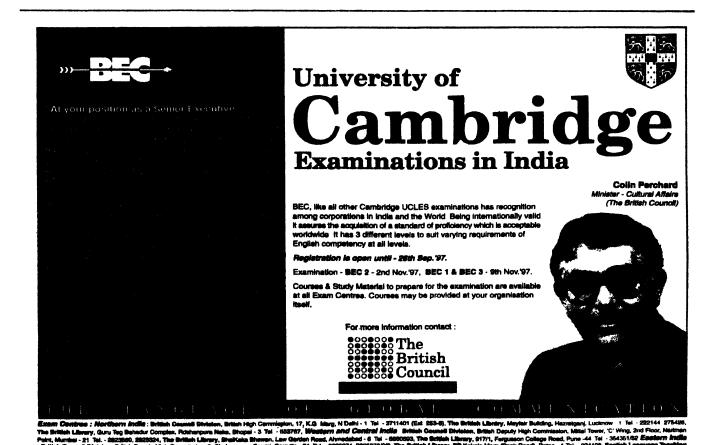


Great Delight?

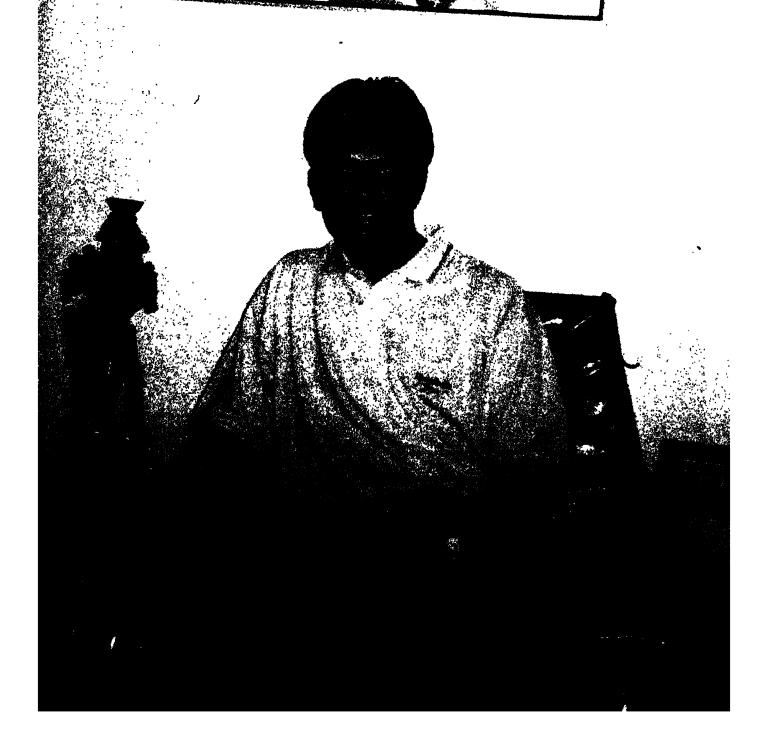
Nithe June issue of Sportsworld, Sumit Mukherjee has gone into raptures over Saced Anwar's record-breaking innings. Agreed, it was a great delight, but let's not forget that about 140 out of 194 runs were scored with a runner provided courtesy our skipper (was it the Gujral doctrine?).

We have to accept that more than the actual strokeplay it's the running between the wickets that saps the batsman's energy. If Anwar had some ailment, then he shouldn't have played. Rules should not be suitably amended. Even if a batsman is injured on the field he should be provided a runner only for a limited period.

E.J.MITRA, Hyderbad.







SPEAKING

Forget RAHUL DRAVID the cricketer. Meet Rahul Dravid the person

IF HE DIDN'T BECOME A CRICKETER...

His parents never forced him to become an engineer or a doctor. If he had shown interest in art he might have become an artist for his mother Pushpa Dravid is very good at painting folk art. "Perhaps, she would not have said 'no' if I had asked her to teach me," said Rahul Dravid who has now made his presence felt in the international cricketing circles. Dravid's slick touches with the bat are akin to what his mother does with a painting brush.

HIS MUSICAL TASTES

The 200th episode of *Close-up Antakshari* on *Zee TV* had Rahul as the winner along with Sanjay Manjrekar, who is the best of the cricketer-singers. "I provided Sanjay the moral support while he did most of the winning job," recalled Rahul. Nevertheless, Rahul is a fan of Kishore Kumar and listening to old Hindi songs is one of his favourite pastimes.

"I don't mind listening to English music. When I was in the West Indies, Calypso rhythm bowled me over. Their folk-songs are also good to listen to," felt Rahul, adding, "these days, I even listen to our own Kumar Sanu's Hindi songs and he's good."

HIS ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

Rahul has also developed an interest in wild life. "It's nice to be amidst the wild life. I have gone to Kenya and I have seen wildlife in south India. I was interested in it since my childhood, but then there were very few opportunities to go out," he said. He is very happy about having done a bit of a promotional job to the Save Tiger

project. "We hardly have 5000 tigers in our forests today. It's important to protect whatever woody ground and pasture we have."

HIS CULINARY TASTES

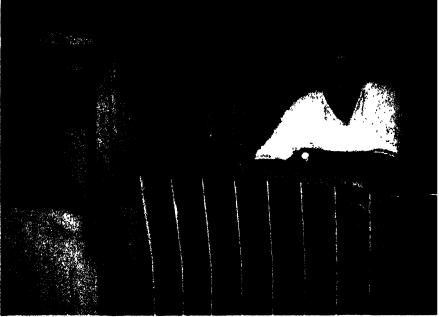
Rahul normally likes Indian food, preferably home-cooked. "But when on tours I eat non-veg. Since it becomes difficult to get Indian food, I'm forced to do without it. I enjoy chicken and fish," said Rahul, who

PHOTOGRAPHS AISHWARYA LAKSHMI

doesn't endorse the view that they will help enhance energy.

ON ENDORSEMENTS

Rahul is not a bit overawed by the fact that he is being seen as a model these days. "It's just a spin-off of being a cricketer. I don't think it's anything related to do with professional modelling. Obviously, I understand that to a good cricketer only all these things will come. It's just that my



Home, sweet home. This is where you can find Rahul when he is not doing duty for the national cricket team

(Facing page) Lounging at home is one aspect that flake! Dravid misses a lot because of the hectic touring, but he's not complaining. The painting above him was done by his mother Pushpa cricket is getting me all these contracts and not my looks."

OTHER INTERESTS

"I used to play a little hockey in school. But now I follow golf, rugby and tennis and enjoy watching them on TV," conceded Rahul, who loves to visit places. "On tours, we don't get much time to see places. Like we went all the way to Johannesburg, but could not go to Sun City. I love seeing places."

Interviewed by Aishwarya Lakshmi

HE'S HOTE



He's revered by opponents and teammates alike. But SANATH JAYASURIYA does not consider himself a star batsman. Instead he regards himself as an allrounder and that is essentially what he is in the Sri Lankan side

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

E does not have the charisma of Shane Warne or the genius of Brian Lara. He is not in the same league as Sachin Tendulkar or Aravinda de Silva as a batsman. Neither is he media savvy like Wasim Akram or Mark Taylor. But, when he explodes in the middle, the Laras and Tendulkars are often relegated to the background. When Sanath Jayasuriya hits them, they stay hit.

If there is one person who has rewritten the grammar of one-day cricket, it's got to be that man from Matara. It is because of his consistently explosive strokeplay early on which is reducing the one-day contests to no contests, that they are planning to change the rules—have the field restrictions in the last 15 overs instead of the first 15.

Jayasuriya, of course, does not agree: "As far as I can recollect, I have always batted positively. I mean, I have always believed that the ball is there to be hit. It is only when our team started winning consistently, people began to take notice."

Cricket may be a team game and the Lankans may be clicking as a bunch, but no matter how well Arjuna Ranatunga leads his band, or how consistently De Silva bats, it is Jayasuriya who invariably provides the spark which fires the world

champions to victory.

Had he been born in any other country, he would have been a cult figure as well as a multi-millionaire by now. In Sri Lanka, he remains a top-draw, immensely popular in the stands, but there is hardly any hysteria over someone who has been unquestionably a national hero in the strife-torn island.

the World Cup, obviously gave me a lot more satisfaction. It helped give Sri Lanka an identity in world cricket," he remarked recently.

It is typical of Jayasuriya who is not known to get carried away even in tight situations. For someone who is a naturally aggressive cricketer, Jayasuriya rarely gets overtly aggressive on the field. His reaction on



KAMAL JULKA

Sri Lankan fans' reaction towards
Jayasuriya in a way is similar to his
own attitude towards success
—dignified. He cherishes the Most
Valuable Player Award in the Wills
World Cup more than the epochal
triple hundred in the Test series
against India. "Helping my team win

When Jayasuriya's willow strikes the leather you just fix your gaze skywards and wonder how he clears the ropes effortlessly

reaching his first triple hundred was hardly any different from his mannerism after having crossed his maiden double century versus India in the first Test match.

Even when he was dismissed for 340 after getting so close to Lara's 375, there was no hitting the bat in the ground in disgust or a suppressed cry of anguish from him. Instead he shed a tear or two while walking back to the pavilion. That is the man for you.

The Jayasuriya school of aggression does not believe in giving the batsman a mouthful when hit or doing a somersault, a la Paul Adams, on getting a wicket. Instead, it preaches a cold-blooded murder of bowlers. It involves taking a few risks against bowlers early on in a bid to rattle their confidence, and once the mental war has been won, to set about feasting on their offerings at your own pleasure. It is not the easiest thing to do but Jayasuriya makes it look so simple, as he did during his 48-ball century during the Singer Cup in Singapore versus Pakistan.

"Oh! it was one of those days when everything clicked. I middled everything. I also sighted the ball early and even the mishits cleared the fence. I enjoyed it while it lasted," Jayasuriya recalled.

Perhaps that is why even Lara has a healthy respect for him. "He is very good. I respect him," he had observed after Jayasuriya's epic knock.

No bowler likes to be carted around but most feel they have a chance against Jayasuriya early on as he aims to hit over the top in the first 15 overs. However, unlike Shahid Afridi, who just goes bang-bang, there is a method to Jayasuriya's madness. He relies on a keen eye, quicksilver reflexes and powerful forearms to tear into any attack. Just give him some width and watch the ball disappear to the ropes. On good batting tracks where the ball doesn't deviate too much off the seam or spin viciously, it is difficult for bowlers to escape Jayasuriya's murderous blade.

Yet, he is no slogger. He may not have the straightest of bats in the game, but it would be wrong to classify him as a quintessential pinch-hitter. The great Barry Richards, for one, was amazed at the regularity with which Jayasuriya

middled the ball during the entire series versus India. "When the ball hits the middle of the bat as often as it does in Jayasuriya's case, there is little he can be faulted from the technical point of view," Richards, considered to be one of the most technically correct batsmen of all times, said while commentating during the series.

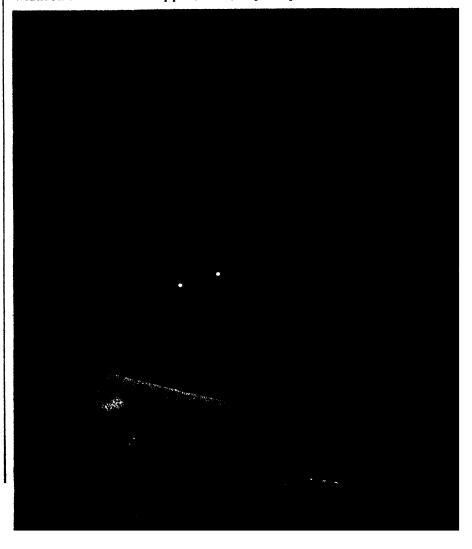
His timing and power is such that even mishits clear the in-field and race to the boundary. Cut and pull remain his pet shots but of late he has added the lofted drive to his list of specialities. Just shows how keen a learner-he is.

Was he worried that the bowlers all over the world were beginning to sort him out—tuck him up by bowling a fuller length in line with the stumps? "Playing at the highest level is all about learning quickly. It is only natural that bowlers do their homework on me—deny me the width on either side. On my part, I too

am improvising all the time. It is a game of one-upmanship. You win some, you lose some," Jayasuriya had said during the Independence Cup.

Has he ever spared a thought about the poor bowlers who get mauled at his hands? "Being a bowler too, in my own right, I fully appreciate the tough task one has, especially in one-day cricket where the dice is loaded in favour of the batsmen. When Afridi got after us (me included) in Kenya, we got a taste of our own medicine. Well, when someone bats like that, there is little any bowler can do but hope the batsman will make a mistake," he said.

Not the one to play for records, Jayasuriya says he lost no sleep when Afridi broke his world record, hitting a century in only 37 balls. "I knew one day some one would break my record and when Afridi played the way he did, I was very happy for him," was Jayasuriya's candid confession.



SANATH JAYASURIYA'S CAREER AT A GLANCE

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Up dated till August 16, 1997

ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

Compiled by Hariprased Chattopadhyay

Post World Cup has seen a new Jayasuriya who is quite in keeping with Lanka's goal To become the best Test-playing nation by 2000 The pundits who had said that the euphoria over Jayasuriya begins and ends with the one-dayers, ended up with egg on their faces after that mammoth knock from the left-hander

It was as much a triumph of mind over matter as of tenacity over technique. For well over two days he and Roshan Mahanama ground the Indian bowling to dust not giving the visitors the semblance of a chance. The fact that Jayasuriya matched. Mahanama s athleticism while taking singles even after posting his triple century speaks volumes of the man s fitness.

He refuses to admit that Lara s 375 was at the back of his mind when he was out there in the middle 'At no stage in my career have I been driven by records Of course, I am aware of what Lara has achieved I intended to bat as long as I could If the record comes my way that's inne You never know, maybe I will get there, Jayasuriya had said on the eve of the final day of the first Test (he was unbeaten on 326)

That he fell 35 short, 15 now history But, the fact remains that the way he batted no one would have grudged him even a 400-plus score. The key to success was his capacity to concentrate for so long. A staunch Buddhist—he says his prayers twice in a day—perhaps it was the self-denial which Buddha preached which helped Jayasuriya to rise above himself. This one innings may not have given him immortality, but it has sure heralded his arrival as a frontline. Test opener.

However, Jayasuriya refuses to look upon himself as anything but an allrounder. He takes immense pride in his left-arm stuff. And why not. He is Lanka's highest wicket taker in one-day Internationals with over 100 scalps, most of them picked up at crucial junctures.

Jayasunya s ability to break partnerships to make something happen with the ball is not lost on his skipper Ranatunga who has even bowled him occasionally at the death 'Sanath has an unflappable temperament. He doesn't get rattled if he goes for a few runs in the slog overs. That is why I often use him at the death, is Ranatunga's simple explanation.

As for Jayasuriya himself he sees himself as a full fledged allrounder in the star-studded line-up. My top-priority of course is batting but I love to do my bit with the ball and on the field. Basically, I like to remain involved.

That is Sanath Jayasuriya for you Ready to take fresh guard



A behind-the-scenes look at the telecast of the semi final of the Kalyani Black Label Cup between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan

AM sitting with commentator
Novy Kapadia (contributor to
Sportsworld /Reader of English
at Khalsa College/manager of a
football club in Delhi) and the expert
Noel da Lima Leitao (President of the
Vasco Sports Club/secretary of the
Goan Football Association and a
shipping/iron ore tycoon) in the TV
box at the Salt Lake Yuva Bharati
Stadium in Calcutta It is three o clock
in the afternoon on a Sunday in July

It is the semi final of the Kalyani Black Label Cup between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan About 1 31 000 people have turned up for the match

There is a loud roar in

the distance we can see fans waving the maroon/green and yellow/red flags of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal respectively. It is not inside the box. There is no airconditioning nor is there any fan.

I mention this to Novy He replics At least this place is better than the boxes in Mumbai and Kerala. The one in Mumbai (the Cooperage Stadium) was a wooden box 4 x 3 perched very high and we had to climb up a rickety staircase. It was positively dangerous. In Kerala, they have such switches They use two switches One called Lazy 1 is pressed to get in touch with the control room. The other, an orange coloured one named 'Cough', is pressed when you want to cough or clear your throat. When the switch is pressed down the sound does not enter the mike and the viewer does not hear it.

A minute before kick off as the players stand around waiting for referee Inayatullah Khan to blow the whistle two khakhi-uniformed homeguards walk in and ask whether they can sit and watch the

BY SHEVLIN SEBASTIAN

proceedings from the box Novy Kapadia waves an expansive hand they sit behind us to one side Suddenly the cue is given from the

control room Novy Kapadia begins
Welcome to Star Sports We are at
the Salt Lake Stadium Calcutta for the
Kalyani Black Label Cup semi final A
clash of the titans between nine-times
champion Mohun Bagan and holders
Fast Bengal Arch rivals ecstatic
crowds the largest ever crowd in
India 125 000 East Bengal will rely
on the silky skills of Baichung Bhutia





WELCOME TO

a wonderful stadium there (the Nehru Stadium in Kochi) but they did not build a proper box

Srinis as an the sound recordist comes in clad in shorts a blue t shirt sneakers and holding a walkie talkie in his hand. He adjusts the set so that the picture is crystal clear.

In front of the two commentators there is a box-like contraption with

India's most sought-after football player Mohun Bagan will rely on the explosive power of Chima Okene for goals Mighty Chima who has played in Indian football from 1985 onwards

As the game continues, Novy puts a question to the expert Noel. The latter gives his views in a loud, clear, distinct voice. We are perspiring inside the

box There are dots of perspiration on Novy's balding head Noel is also dripping sweat. He presses the cough button now and then to clear his throat. While Novy does the match commentary. Noel comes in on the replays. Sometimes, he points silently at the screen and urges. Novy to speak with a wave of his hands. Without realising it, he is hurrying Novy along.



R SPORTS

The most interesting thing that I discover is that Novy is not looking at the play on the ground. He stares at the screen throughout. So, technically, he is watching the game like a TV viewer. The moment the image changes, he talks about the new picture. As a result, once or twice, sentences are left unfinished. He conveys easily, through a rapid,

excited but very clear voice, the atmosphere of a Big Match. "Football is not like cricket," he had told me earlier, "Action is taking place all the time. You have to be very alert."

Here are some rules that he has to observe: Speak less. Don't state the obvious. Don't give too many examples. Try to add to the picture.

new facts. Try to interact with the expert commentator. Be natural. Make it a sort of conversation.

Novy Kapadia, because of his background as a teacher in English, speaks with a literary flourish. "There is a tide in the affairs of man which when taken at the flood leads on to fortune: Baichung is ploughing a lone Don't keep repeating facts. Try to give | furrow upfield; it is a battle of

attrition; the referee will have his hands full; Saiza is full of beans."

Noel da Lima Leitao, on the other hand, is quite dramatic: "All these crosses are really tearing into the flesh of East Bengal." During a particular exciting time near the Bagan goalmouth, Noel blurts out: "The diamond (system by Bagan coach Amal Dutta) has lost its bite." Novy moves in smoothly and says, "The diamond has lost its glitter."

Srinivasan comes into the box; Noel raises a fist in acknowledgement. He gestures to 'Srini' silently for the plastic bottle of mineral water that is placed on a nearby table. Both take quick swigs of it. One of the homeguards drifts off to sleep. For some people, life can get boring even in the most excitable of situations. The minutes tick away. Soon, it's half time....

Srinivasan takes me to the control room on the ground floor of the stadium. It seems to be a converted garage. The big Star TV control truck is on one side. In front of it, on a cemented platform, twelve monitors are placed on two long rows. On the top of the monitors, there are two large TV sets with PREV: Preview and TX: Telecast written in block letters on white paper pasted at the bottom of the screen. There are two large fans trying to provide some breeze. On a chair, clad in a green t-shirt and shorts, and wearing white sneakers, sits bespectacled Mark Lynch, the Director, who interacts with the cameramen, and will choose the image which is going to appear on the screen. He has a keyboard, called a Visionmixer, with orange/yellow/white coloured keys, in front of him.

Sitting about three feet away, on his right, with a TV set on his table, is Bernie Ross, the producer, who keeps in touch with the commentators. Behind them sits Joy Mukherjee, who does the statistics, (how many fouls/how many shots on target, etc.). To one side, sitting on low long boxes are again three homeguards, with nothing to do. The match starts.

Mark Lynch starts pressing the keys

and passes instructions to the eight cameramen placed at strategic locations around the ground:

"Johnny, I want the referee."

"Coming to No.4"

"No.3, come in for a close up."

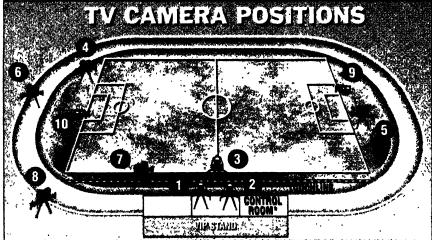
"Follow PK." (The cameraman goes in for a close-up but the image is shaky).

"Go gently, go gently." Mark pleads. "Find Baichung."

"Don't worry about DD. If they come in the way, please ask them to move."

It is when Baichung takes a shot that rifles into the roof of the net, that there is an exhalation of surprise in the control room. But Mark Lynch is cool. He continues to weave in the different images. When he has to do the replay, he leans to one side, presses a switch and says, "Okay guys, here goes."

The replay is played, (all replays are done in the truck, see picture) and as he lifts his hand off the button, the image vanishes from view and we are now seeing the player who scored the



- Camera 1- Wide main shot follows the ball (High in stand opposite half way line)
- Camera 2- "Tight" main shot, gives close-ups and follows ball
- Camera 3- Ground level on half way line gives close-ups
- Camera 4- Ground level next to goel. Used for replays

benches, substitutes and action

- Camera 5- Ground level next to goal at other end. Used for replays
- Camera 6- High (Next to scoreboard). Used for high shots behind goal replays
 Camera 7- Radio camera runs up and down touchline used for close-ups of coaches,
- Camera 8- Very high wide angle lens gives "Beauty" shot of stadium
- Camera 9- Unmanned minicam placed in goal. Used for replays
- Camera 16- Unmanned minicam placed in goal. Used for replays
- * Control room is on the ground floor of the stadium

Chart by Nilratan Maity

"I want the referee speaking to the linesmen."

"Okay No.4, I want a close up of coach Amal Dutta."

"I want Chima's best angle please."
"Hold that, Number 7."

"Give me subdued crowds."

The camera pans on a silent crowd of Mohun Bagan spectators after East Bengal has just scored through Baichung Bhutia.

Bernie Ross immediately tells the commentators: "Don't talk." A couple of seconds of silence. Then he says, "Okay, pick up the action."

goal, Baichung Bhutia.

Bernie tells Novy and Noel, "Please tell the score." They dutifully oblige. As the match comes to a close, Mark Lynch says, "Follow Baichung." A cameraman immediately focuses on Baichung. "Okay guys, let's try for the interview with Baichung now. We also have to cover the Man of the Match ceremony."

Half an hour later, Novy Kapadia and Noel da Lima Leitao stand outside the control room with Mark Lynch. They all look relaxed now. Novy munches on a sandwich and holds a



Mark Lynch in the control room at the Salt Lake Stadium

green banana in his hand. It will be demolished soon. He looks ravenous. An Urdu journalist sidles up and whispers to Novy, "How about arranging for us to do some Hindi commentary for Star Sports?"

Novy smiles and replies, "I'll try..."

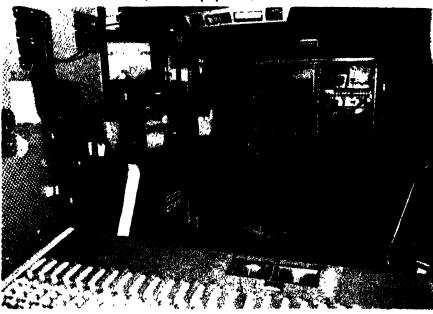
On Saturday, a week later, Mark Lynch and I are sitting on the players' bench at the Salt Lake Stadium. The stadium is completely deserted. There is a ringing sound of silence. It is 2.30 in the afternoon. He is dressed casually again: t-shirt, shorts and sneakers. He is a handsome looking man, quite charming and speaks in that precise manner of the Brits.

Interview with Mark Lynch, Director:

What exactly is the role of a director?

The director's role is to control the pictures that the viewers see. So I sit with a monitor for each camera and

A view of the inside of the truck, in which replays are done



for this tournament, we are using ten cameras. I can see all the pictures that they are offering and I will cut to the picture that I think is most suitable for the viewers. My role is to inform the viewers of what's happening in the game, get close-ups of the right players at the right time, give replays of goals, and any sort of incident that deserves a replay.

"Basically, we want to make the viewers feel they were at the match. We want to give the feel. If you watched the semi final coverage and contrasted it with Doordarshan's coverage (see box), hopefully we conveyed more of the atmosphere, much louder sounds, more crowd shots, beside the shots of the action. We just try to make the game more exciting really."

Are you aware where each camera is?

Yes. I can talk to all the cameras and they can talk to me. I can ask for some specific shots with the head phones that I have. I'll say, 'Okay, I am using 5 next.' So camera 5 gets ready for me to use him.

Sitting behind you that day, I felt confused about which image to select. How do you do it so smoothly? What is the method behind it?

It's difficult to explain. You have to understand the game obviously. It's instinct really. You don't have time to consider why you are selecting certain shots. Occasionally, I might select the wrong shots. But generally, I just select the shots that will inform the viewer.

Do you, by any chance, miss a picture which is away from the action?

Yeah. Sometimes, we miss things. Because things will happen off the ball. So I have people—spotters—out on the field who will shout to me that an incident is happening on the other side of the field. Also, I have a producer Bernie (Ross) who is sitting next to me and if he thinks that I have missed something, he'll shout, "Mark, you missed that."

Doesn't it affect your concentration?

SLOPPY COVERAGE

Doordarshan's telecast was way below professional standards

N the day that 1,31,000 people crowded the Salt Lake Stadium for the Mohun Bagan-East Bengal Kalyani Black Label semi final match, the 'Doordarshan' crew had also sneaked in despite the IFA's agreement with 'Star Sports', after some heavy-duty string pulling.

But much of the excitement of that momentous day remained confined to the stadium. DD's coverage seemed hell-bent on accentuating all that is wrong with Indian football. The coverage seemed far removed from the field of action —the players looked like so many fish in an aquarium. Most of the time it was impossible to make out the player in action -it had to be left to guesswork. As for the commentary, it was extremely insipid. The commentators just went on talking. It seemed more like a radio, rather than a TV commentary. And that did not add value to the telecast at all.

Four days later, 'Star Sports' telecast the same match. It looked like a different match altogether. There were innumerable camera angles. A hand-held camera would

hover around the two coaches of the rival teams and capture them at their histrionic best. And Baichung Bhutia sure knew which camera to head for after he had scored—straight for 'Star TV'. So, if Indian football remains unattractive, a lot of it can be attributed to sloppy coverage by the state-owned television.

The next week, DD telecast the final of the Kalyani tournament live. If the previous week's bad coverage (for argument's sake) was because they had been hurriedly asked to telecast the match, surely they could have no such excuses this time. They even boasted of nine cameras. But it was the same story all over again. One could only make out a marginal improvement in the telecast.

Ironically, many of the 'Star TV' cameramen are ex-DD employees. But it is time that Doordarshan pulled up its footballing socks. Telecasts like these can only kill enthusiasm for the sport in the country. For starters, DD can try to spell Mohun Bagan correctly.

Kaustuv Basu

Yes, it is very hard to concentrate. But you have to switch off all those external distractions. In my ears, I am hearing a lot of people. I hear the VT (Preview) and Replay people. I hear the sound people. I hear the cameramen and I hear the producer. I am also listening to the commentary. So, there's a babble of voices going on in my head. I have to try and sort out the right voices. It's experience really. Can you distinguish the voices that are speaking? I mean, how do you know who's who?

We identify ourselves. For example,

they will say, this is camera 6 and then I know who is talking

That day, I saw a couple of very interesting scenes which you didn't pick up. Somebody had fainted and was lying on the groundpeople were sprinkling water on his face.

Was he a player?

Yes, I think so. I am not so sure now.

Right.

I was waiting for you to put on the picture but you didn't. So there

are many pictures that you don't use?

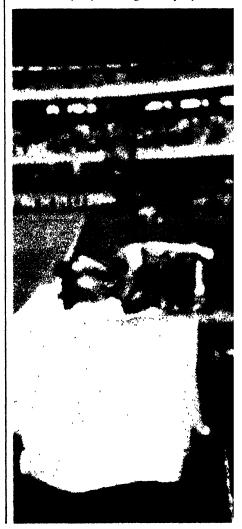
Yes. You can't see everything. It's impossible. You need eight or nine eyes. (Smiles) Hopefully, I show shots when players are injured. I might occasionally miss one, but what I try not to do is to show negative images like crowd disturbances, or when someone runs on to the field.

Then, in a way, you are practising censorship?

No, it's not censorship. I am just showing the positive aspects of the game, not the negative aspects. It's our duty to build up the sports in India. But if there is a major story, like if there is a fire (God forbid) or something like that, then I obviously cannot ignore that.

How do you go about doing replays?

I have two people doing the replays



for me. They sit in the truck. They have two machines each. They are recording certain angles all the time. If I want a replay, I will shout that I want a replay. I number the replays green, blue, yellow and red. So when I shout, I want a replay, they will shout to me, take red. That will give me the best angle.

You leaned to one side and you pressed a button. What's that?

That's called a DVA. A Digital Video Effects machine. It flies the picture in on top of the action with a slo mo. Maybe, I will show another angle. After that, I'll lean over and fly the picture out again.

Suppose Baichung scores the goal, you show the replay and immediately after that you focus on Baichung once again. What's

the idea?

Baichung is the goal scorer. The commentators will naturally be talking about him. So I go for a close up of the goal scorer. After a goal, I try to show the goal scorer, the crowds going crazy, the dejected goal keeper. or the defender whose mistake created the goal. Then I go back to Baichung. These are all quick shots. Is there a plan behind all this? Yes. Before a match, we have a meeting where I brief the cameramen on what I want. After a goal is scored, Camera 2, which is the highest angle, wili go in for a close-up of the attacker. Camera 3 which is the low angle on the half-way line, will focus on the defender or the goalkeeper, Camera 6 will give me the crowd shots. Camera 7 will focus on the coach and

the manager. So, as soon as a goal is scored, the cameramen know where to go. They don't need me to tell them what to do.

So, it's more or less choreographed?

Exactly. You try to take the elements of luck out of it. Everything's co-ordinated.

What happens if something unexpected happens? Then what do you do?

Well, it's up to me really, to shout at them and say what I want. So I'll shout, Camera 2, give me the injured player. Camera 3, give me the referee.

What other things do you plan for, besides a goal?

Corner kicks, penalties, it's the same routine.

Could you give me the routine for corner kicks?

Say, the winger runs down the wing. The defender comes out, tackles him and the ball goes out for a corner. I'll show the replay, probably, of the winger going down the wing, I'd come out of the replay, to Camera 2, which is a tight shot of the player about to take the corner shot. Then we have a camera in the net, called a mini cam. without a cameraman on it, it's in a fixed position. I come to that, to show the positioning of the goalkeeper and the defenders jostling with the attackers, then I go to Camera 2 for the kick. Then I quickly cut to the wide shot, which is Camera 1, to show where the ball has gone, stay on that, if it is a goal or if it is cleared and then go to a tight shot.

On whom?

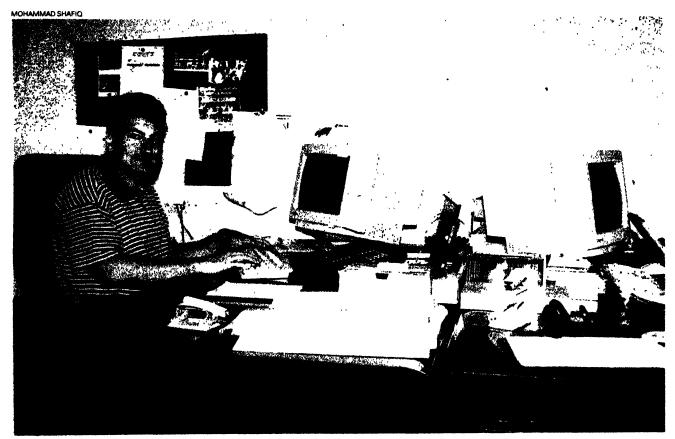
The player who kicked the ball or the defender coming away with the ball.

How about the routine for a penalty?

I would have a shot behind the goalkeeper, of the player running up. I would cut to a side shot of him, scoring or missing. Then I will have a shot of the goalie and the attacker. Has there been times when you missed the action? For example, you cut to the player running up to take the shot from behind the goalkeeper and while you are moving off, the shot is taken. As a

A Star TV cameraman, with his camera wrapped in a raincoat, focuses on the match





result, you missed showing the goal.

You do miss things. I have never missed anything important like a goal. I miss little incidents occasionally, but we are taping every camera, so we can go back to it and look for it. For example: if a referee stops play and we are not sure why, the videotape people will go back and look for it. And if we got it, we can then show it. Because I can't see everything.

In some ways, it is a protection? Yeah. The replays are the salety nets. What sort of a character does a director need to have?

He really needs to understand the game. That is the most important, thing. Then you need to be a good communicator. Because you have to tell people quickly and clearly what you want. You have to be pretty organised. And I think you have to be fairly calm because it can get quite stressful. If events overtake you, you must remain calm.

Are you a calm sort of person?Yes. I do sometimes shout at people in the heat of the moment. But

Mark Lynch in a relaxed mood in his office in

afterwards, everyone knows that television is a stressful business, especially if it is live. And occasionally you have to shout if you want something.

It's exciting, despite all the stress. It's very exciting. If I wasn't a director, I would like to be a footballer. But I am not good enough to be a footballer. So I think being a director is the next best thing. You can get your adrenalin flowing especially for a big match.

Is this excitement there all the time?

No, not at all. There are tedious days also, It's quite strenuous, setting up cameras and laying down the cables. Travelling is a drag sometimes. There is a lot of hard work behind the scenes, preparing for an event. But when the actual event starts, it makes up for it.

What are the rules for good commentary?

The role of a commentator should be

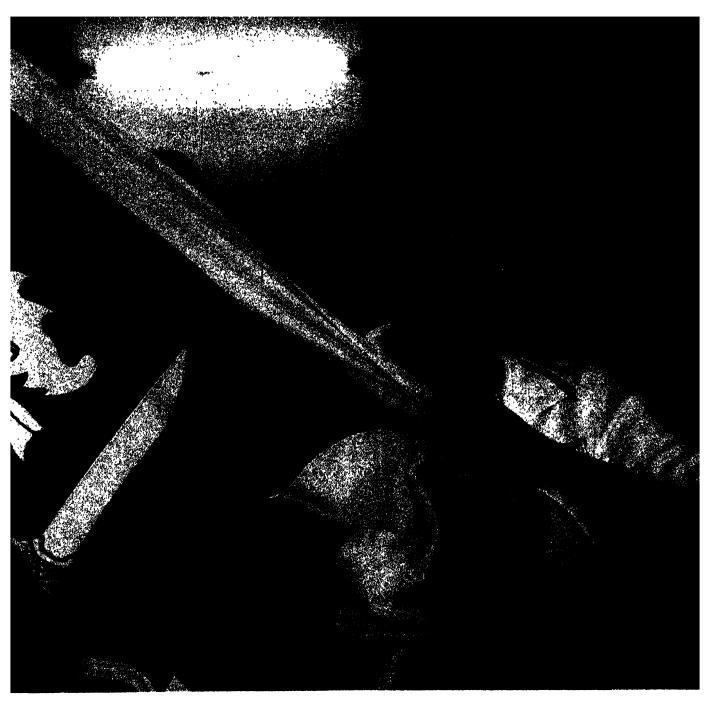
to add to the pictures. To give you information of a player that you may or may not know. The history of a player. Particular strengths and weaknesses of the player. And the expert will tell us things about the game that the average fan does not know about. Really, their role is to add to the pictures, rather than describe the pictures. That is because the viewers can see the images themselves and so there is no need to describe the action so carefully, as on radio.

How do you compare your 'Star Sports' commentators with those in the West?

Since this type of coverage is fairly recent in India, they have some sort of catching up to do.

What sort of catching up do they have to do?

It's.experience, really. But both Novy and Noel are fine. They are very good. They are learning very fast. We've tried a couple of other people but 'Star Sports' is happy with what they've got now. Their standard of commentary is very high.



An ecstatic Jayasinghe said after the final, "For the last 50 years, no one from Sri Lanka has won a world medal and I was determined to be the first. Now I can promise my countrymen that since I am only 20, I will win the gold medal in two years time at the next World Championships."

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, a nation of a mere 18 million people, went wild with celebrations. Banner headlines in the country's main newspapers hailed her feat. "One of the greatest moments in our country's sporting history," said *The Island* newspaper

Jayasinghe with the Sri Lenkan flag during the '95 SAF Games at Chennai. Two years later, at Athens, she brought even greater glory to her island nation

from Colombo. The Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga called her up in Athens and congratulated her. Later, when she arrived in Sri Lanka, she was given a tumultuous reception. Top corporate companies have presented her with vast sums of money while the Government has already allotted her a plot of land in an exclusive suburb in Colombo. It is a far cry from the humble circumstances that she was born in.

She grew up in a village called Varakapul in Kegalle, which is on the hilly route to Kandy. It is an area dotted with rubber plantations and is best known for its elephant orphanage, where abandoned or orphaned elephants are looked after. Jayasinghe was one of five children. They were poor people. barely eking out a living. Her father works as a driver in the state-run transport department while her mother earns some extra money by working in the rubber plantations.

"In 1990," recalled coach Pereira,



I got an invitation to attend a small athletics meet in a village 40 kms from Colombo. At first. I was not too interested. But all my misgivings disappeared when I spotted a young girl. barefeet and somewhat sickly looking virtually burn the rough track she sprinted upon.

When I came back to Colombo I informed the Ministry officials of my find Soon I could bring her under the government sports plan which is quite efficient and elaborate in Sri I anka She trained under national coaches and seeing that the girl had promise the Govt even arranged for Coca Cola to sponsor her

The multinational ended up sponsoring her to the tune of 10 000 Sri Lankan rupces a month Their investment was justified when Jayasinghe won the gold at the Asian Track and Field Champronships at

Jayasınghe hugs her coach Davin Pereira after she wins the 100m gold medal at the '95 SAF Games at Chennai She later won the 200m gold and anchored the Sri Lankan 4 \times 100m relay team to a team gold

Jakarta in 1995

A few months after the ATF championships she had to submit to an out of competition testing the results were positive. The IAAF suspended her while they reconfirmed the findings. The Sri I ankan Amateur Athletic Association filed an appeal. Later Jayasinghe was exonerated by the IAAF even though she had tested positive. The reason she had been taking a drug premelute in a menstrual adjustor which is taken to delay periods. This drug gives the effect of the banned drug nandroline.

She was allowed to take part in the 95 SAF Games at Chennai where

expectedly, she won the 100 and 200m gold. Later she anchored the Sri Lankan 4 x 100m relay team to victory. Jayasinghe's story is a fairy tale come true. It is a saga of determination courage persistence hard work and some good, solid scientific training.

So where does she go from here?
Her own ambition is to win the
Asian Games gold medal at Bangkok
next year and win a gold medal at the
2000 Olympics at Sydney. If she
continues to train with the
single-mindedness that she has
shown so far and not get distracted by
the fame the money and adulation
shown by her countrymen, there is
every chance that Jayasinghe will
have a long and distinguished career
in international athletics.

Ashwin Thomas

FHUTOL RAPHS ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

TRANQUIL GRAF



Stuffi Graf is aptimistic that she will be back in action by the end of the year. The question that is uppermost on most tennis fans' minds and among the players is whether Graf can reproduce the awasome form that she has shown for block to a decade. Picture shows her speaking to a young fan as they watch a singles match of the Federation Cup

HAT Mike Agassi, Andre's father, once did when his son lost a junior tournament final: He threw Andre's trophy into a trash

Nash ise says he admires:
Mer d, Reagan, and Vlad
the Implication of the stern ruler of tury Wallachia.

ER whose talent
Mo ca Seles says she
ost: 1920s superstar
Suzanne Lenglen.

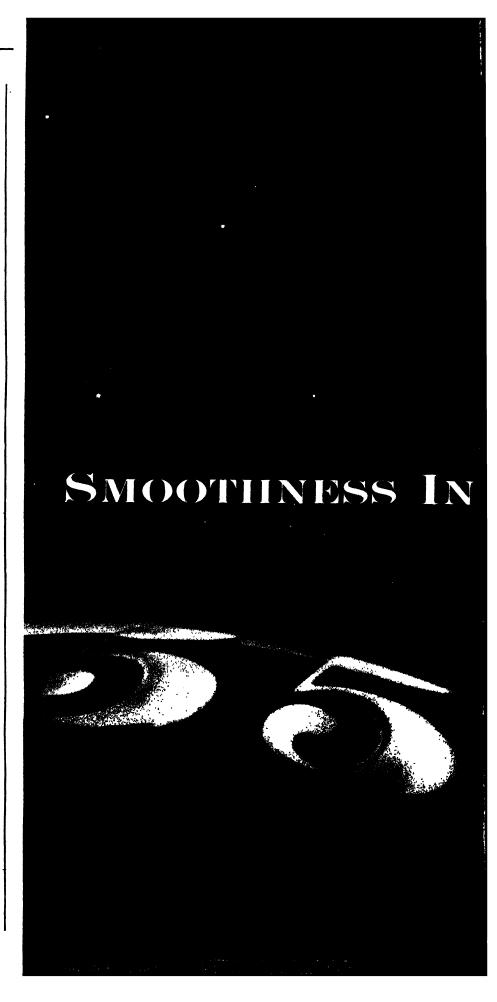
Lenglen often did angeovers in matches: She drank cognac.

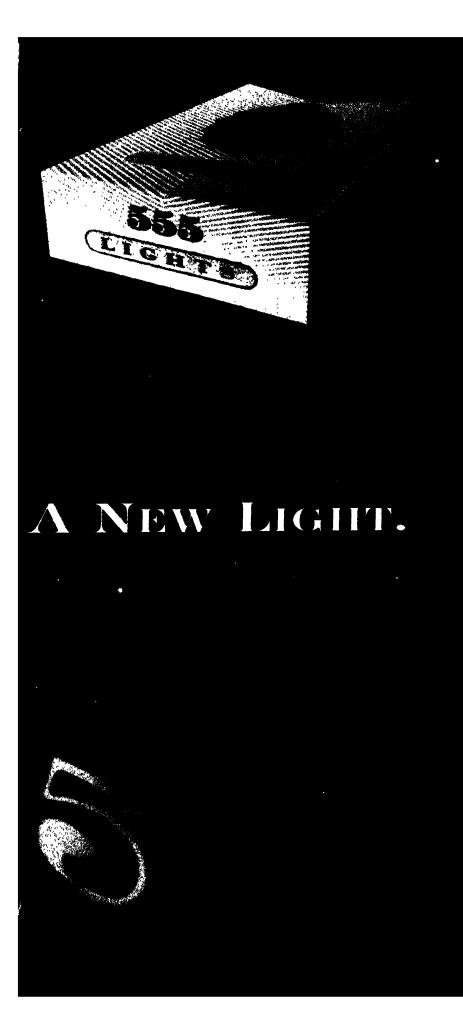
Cup captains who have deed and Bill Talbert, Arthur As They Trabert, Dennis and Tom Gorman.

often self-admitted
"E-mail junkie" Chanda
s in on her Corel
amputer: Seven days
week and three to four times

Australian stars did to night partying, according to John Jer on e: "You trained wit as aird the next day to f your system."

ommission once concluded about IMG, the sports management company with 60 offices in 28 countries: It was "pregnant with conflict of interest."

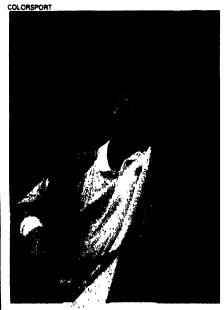




Number of years in which all-time great Margaret Smith Court won three or more of the four Grand Slam tournaments: 5

How Thomas Muster says the stays in top physical condition: "I always pick the room at the top of the hotel and never use the elevator."

FAMOUS Frenchman who formerly owned Wayne Ferreira's apartment in Paris: Jean Renoir.



How Jim Courier describes his years training at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy: Like being "in a dog kennel, fighting for your life."

PERCENT of her prize money that China's Jing-Qian Yi, who upset Jennifer Capriati at the French Open, gets to keep: 35 (50 percent goes to the government and 15 percent to the Chinese tennis federation).

Compiled by Paul Fein

ADAY IN THE LIFE OF RANATHA

Meet the former Wimbledon semi finalist and Davis Cup captain who, nearing the sunset of his life, is happy and tranquil

celebrated my 60th birthday. It was in April to be precise when the ATP Iour Gold Flake Open was being staged in Chennai. Ramesh threw a party in my honour where dozens of friends and well wishers turned up to greet me. Even Lady Hopman, widow of the great Harry Hopman flew all the way from the United States to spend a few days with me and the family. It was a touching experience and a very memorable evening. It was perhaps also time to reflect on all these years I have spent in this world.

Sixty years represent a pretty long period of time. Long enough to make a person sad having gone through

more downs than ups in life In my case though it's been sixty eventful vears at the end of which I am a satisfied man with absolutely no regrets I have had a successful career in tennis I don t have to struggle to make ends meet at this age my children are well settled in life ---what more could I ask for? You could say I m a happy man with complete peace of mind Indeed I am grateful to life for whatever it has given me

Discipline was always an integral part of my life it still is. Even now 1 lead a routine regulated life which helps me keep healthy and fit. Every morning 1 am up by 5 and ready soon for a walk around the tennis court. My wife joins me in this 30 minute exercise after which I am back home to relax for an hour. I have a cup of coffee and go through the newspaper till it stime to go to work.

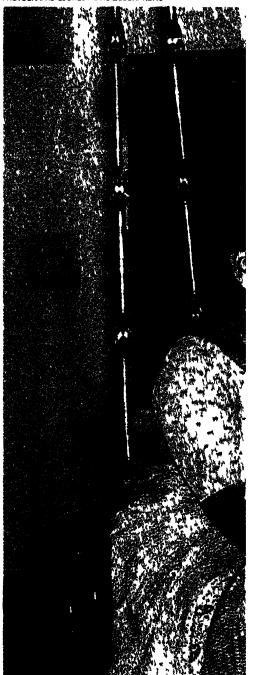
My work is in the form of running a gas distribution agency called the South Madras Gas Agency We ve had this Indian Oil distributorship business for 35 years and it s basically routine service-oriented work which keeps me occupied till 12-12 30

p m In between around 10 30 a m I have a heavy breakfast cum-lunch Back home at 1 p m I relax for a couple of hours. Then it stime to get into my tennis whites and pick up my racket for a visit to our Krishnan Tennis Centre

This academy has come up quite well since its inception almost two years ago Thanks to the efforts of Ramesh who is the director and the interest generated by the ATP Tour



With his grandchildren as they wait to go to school. He dotes an children and finds their commeny stimulating



NKRISHNAN





championship earlier this year, the academy has been flooded with applications from potential trainees. We couldn't take more than 30 kids as we already had 40 boys and girls in the centre.

There's no better sight than to watch these youngsters on the 11 courts, trying to better their forehand or backhand skills. Just as my father T.K. Ramanathan taught me and Ramesh to enjoy the game rather than play mechanically, we try to impress upon these youngsters the importance of having fun while playing tennis. That's the best way to pick up the tricks of the trade quickly from their elders.

I spend three hours with the kids but I don't play with them as there are professional coaches (besides Ramesh) to guide them. I walk around the courts and interact with the children. Time really flies while I'm with the kids. By 7 p.m., I return home

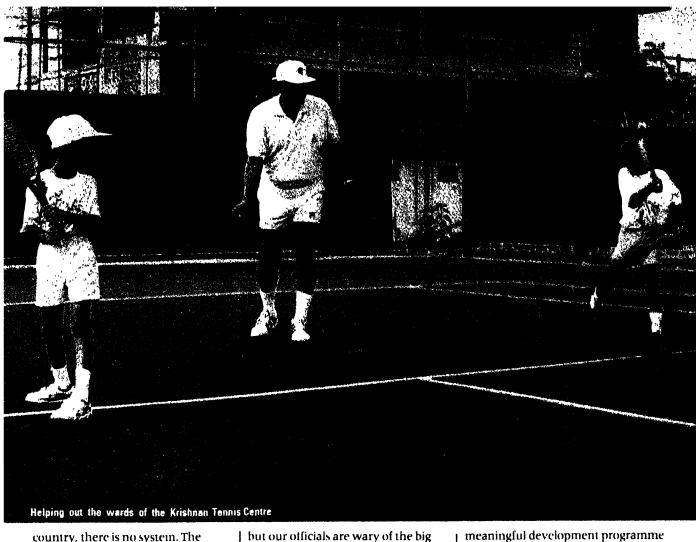
and take a shower before having my dinner.

Most of the evenings, some or all four of my grandchildren are there at my place and so I have a grand time with them. And when they are not around, I watch some television and chat with my wife. Ten o'clock is bed time, and that can stretch at the most by half an hour.

Well, that's the summary of a typical day in my life and I can tell you each day is spent peacefully and happily. Unless it's absolutely essential, I hardly leave station. That's to ensure my routine everyday life isn't disturbed.

I may be a very satisfied family man, but the state of Indian tennis depresses me no end. While the world is moving fast towards the 21st century, Indian tennis is marching backwards—to the 19th century. Sitting at the Nungambakkam Stadium during the ATP Tour event in April, one marvelled at the level of efficiency in running such high-class tournaments.

Both ATP and IMG, which were organising the show with the help of local facilities, showed what professionalism is all about. In our



country, there is no system. The priority of our administrators is to hang onto power by hook or by crook. The corporate sector is willing to invest more and more in Indian sport,

but our officials are wary of the big houses thinking they may come in and start calling the shots. No thought, no planning goes into any project and, consequently, there is no

at any level. I feel very bad, but can't really

suggest any remedy. Ideally, younger people should take over the reins of Indian tennis. They should be people who have played the game themselves with some distinction, so that they'll be aware of the problems and needs of current players. The problem is, I'm quite sure all this will never turn into reality. We Indians are a very resilient lot and tend to accept what's going on, rather than try and improve things.

I have been asked several times why I didn't show an interest in going into tennis administration. Well, the answer is: it's too dirty for my liking. I have followed certain principles in life and am not willing to compromise on them. That's precisely the reason why I'll only advocate ex-players going into administration, not push them into it.

(As told to Amitava Dasgupta)

CAREER PROFILE

1950: National junior champion at the age of 13, South Club.

1953: Senior national champion at 16, South Club.

1954: Junior Wimbledon champion.

1956: First appearance at Wimbledon Centre Court, beat Jaroslav Drobny.

1959: Ranked career-high World no.3 after being six times in the Top Ten.

1959: US hardcourt champion, Denver.

1959: Beat Rod Laver in Davis Cup tie in Massachussets (USA).

1960: Wimbledon semi-finalist.

1961: Wimbledon semi-finalist. Won both singles in Davis Cup tie vs the USA (beat McKinley and Reed).

1962: French Open quarter finalist.

1966: Led India to Davis Cup finals with victory over Brazil.

1968: Beat Clark Graebner in inter-zonal finals vs the US.

1959-79: Davis Cup captain (playing and non-playing).



N August 9 last year when the Indian selectors, in their collective wisdom, decided they had had enough of Mohammad Azharuddin's listless tenure at the top, they then handed over the mantle of captaincy to the crown prince of Indian cricket, Sachin Tendulkar, 23. It seemed at that time that he was in for a long innings in the hot seat. But Tendulkar's annual report card, both as a skipper as well as a batsman, hardly inspires confidence.

A staggering 24 losses in 39 one-day Internationals and only three wins in 14 Tests has put a big question mark on the Little Big Man's credentials as a leader of a potentially excellent team.

To top it, Tendulkar's own form with the bat has been pretty ordinary by his own lofty standards. As a result, India has suddenly become the favourite whipping boys.

A string of losses, some of them from seemingly winning positions, has pushed Tendulkar on the

backfoot. The Indian skipper, who, by his own admission, cannot bear defeat has found himself being gradually pushed to the wall off the field.

Instead of using his razor sharp cricketing brain to try and plot against the rival teams, Sachin has restricted himself to making noises about more commitment on the part of players and generally made public his grievances about not being given the team of his choice by the selectors.

It is easy to criticise Sachin for his uninspirational captaincy, but it is not the easiest of jobs to lead the national side—with just two world class bowlers—in a country where cricketing passions run high and fans are intolerant about failures.

It is even more difficult for Sachin, who is also the country's No.1 batsman, the team's pinch-hitter and also a crisis-manager on the field. In short, Tendulkar simply has too much on his plate at the moment. As a result, he is not performing even one role to perfection.

He has also been accused of turning to the wrong people for advice when he would have been better off keeping his own counsel. And his 'Oh Mumbai. My Mumbai' approach has not exactly made him popular in certain sections of the all-powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI).

As a captain, Sachin may be different from Azhar in the sense that unlike his predecessor, he is very much a hands-on leader. Unlike Azhar, who never went up to a player and told him what is required of him, to help him feel at ease, to boost his confidence, Sachin is very much a players' man.

In the series versus South Africa at home last year, he was so busy helping out his junior colleagues that he ended up neglecting his own batting. It resulted in a few minor technical flaws creeping into his batting and a string of cheap dismissals. However, a good hard look at himself and a few words from the maestro Sunil

ED TO THE WALL

ats in recent months has put the spotlight on ptaincy

Gayaskar were good enough to put him back in business.

Again, unlike Azhar, Sachin is more tolerant towards youngsters and their failures. In fact, coach Madanlal feels that Sachin is a little too soft. In a way, Sachin's accommodating nature is understandable. Having made his debut at 16, in a side which was full of senior cricketers, who were all very protective about him, Sachin perhaps feels a trifle awkward to throw his weight around in the dressing room.

Much as one likes Sachin's cool approach, the fact is that it has failed to pay dividends. Unlike a good General who makes things happen on the field, Sachin is loathe to take risks of try something new, preferring to let the situation mould itself instead.

His field placements and bowling changes more or less follow a set pattern. He did try to do something new by opening the bowling with Rajesh Chauhan in the one-day series versus Sri Lanka, but he kept the off-spinner on an over too many after he had done a good job of containing Sanath Jayasuriya in the first five

overs. His reluctance to use Saurav Ganguly and Ajay Jadeja's medium pace more often is baffling.

Tactically, he is not a patch on someone like Arjuna Ranatunga. It is difficult to plot a dismissal when you don't have quality bowlers, but as a leader Sachin should have impressed upon his batsmen the importance of taking singles in the middle overs without taking too many risks. However, as in the past, India's running between the wickets continues to be the worst in the world along with its fielding.

On the batting front, he appears to have his mind set about opening in the one-dayers. He has been fairly successful as an opener, but the fact remains that rarely has India chased a target successfully when he has fallen cheaply.

Just why he plays those unconventional shots like a slogger when he scores at an equally fast pace with a straight bat, is something which is difficult to understand. It will be far more productive if he bats like himself instead of trying to play like a

Jayasuriya or a Shahid Afridi.

There is also a feeling that if he bats at the same slot as he does in the Tests—at No.4 and sends in a pinch-hitter along with Saurav to get things moving early on, without disturbing Rahul Dravid at no.3. it would be a better option. Dravid, it is clear, does not have the ability to improvise, and is thus a liability down the order.

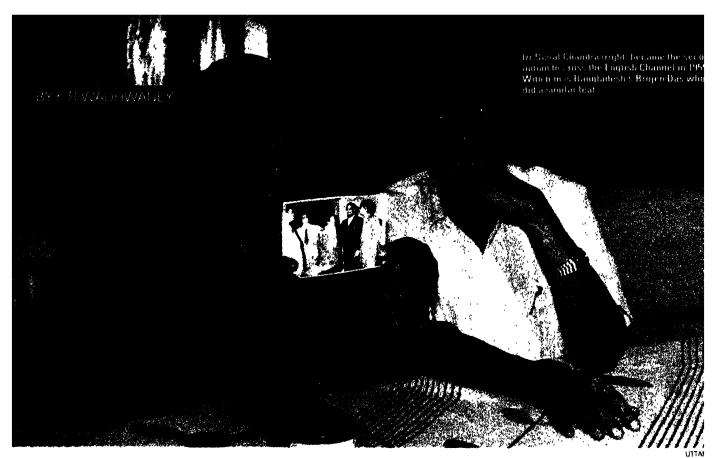
However, if there is one thing which Sachin has in common with Azhar, it is a soft corner for his favourites. If Azhar was accused o' backing Venkatapathi Raju and Rajesh Chauhan and virtually ruining Navjot Sidhu, Sachin's outburst against the selectors when they dropped Nayan Mongia and ignored Vinod Kambli for the Asia Cup was not lost on his fans.

For someone who personifies excellence, it is difficult to understand Sachin's backing of Mongia, who, by any yardstick, is a sub-standard wicketkeeper and more of a prodder than a batsman.

But then, Indian captains generally like to have a few 'yes men' around them. Sachin is merely following in the footsteps of his peers. That is the tragedy of Indian cricket.

Sumit Mukherjee

	CAREER FIGURES														
TEST RECORD															
	M	inn	No	Runs	Avge	HS	C	F	Ct	Balls	Runs/c	Wkts	Avge	Best	
Prior to Captaincy	41	60	7	2911	54.92	179	10	14	33	486	220	4	55.00	2-10	
As Captain	14	23	1	996	45.27	169	3	4	10	52	29	0	-	-	
	55	83	8	3907	52.09	179	13	18	43	538	249	4	62.25	2-10	
					ON	E-DAY	REC	ORD							
	M	Inn	No	Runs	Avge	HS	С	F	Ct	Balls	Runs/c	Wkts	Avge	Bes	
Prior to Captaincy	119	116	12	4096	39.38	137	8	26	35	2775	2197	39	56.33	4-34	
As Captain	39	38	1	1427	38.56	117	4	7	13	695	619	10	61.90	2-61	
	158	154	13	5523	39.17	137	12	33	48	3470	2816	49	57.46	4-34	
						,				Comp	oiled by RA	VI KANT	SRIVAS	AVA	



CHANNEL (E)

Twenty-three Indians have achieved the distinction of crossing the ENGLISH CHANNEL so far

HE history of aquatics in India cannot be considered complete without adequate mention of the crossing of the English Channel. The British Médical Association (BMA) considers the Channel crossing 'one of the toughest' in the annals of adventure sports.

If Capt. Matthew Webb was the first to cross the Channel (21 hrs and 45 mins.) on August 25, 1875, India's Mihir Sen (Calcutta) was the first Asian to accomplish this arduous leat in 1958.

Encouraged by Sen's remarkable achievement, there have been as many as 23 Indians who have inscribed their names in crossing the Channel. Among them are five women.

Unsuccessful in his first seven attempts, Mihir Sen crossed the

Channel on September 26, 1958. His timing was 14 hrs and 45 mins. It was said that had shed about 14 lbs by the time he reached the French coast.

Happy at his eventual success, Sen then crossed the Palk Straits on April 5, 1966. He became the first Asian to swim the Straits of Dardanelles between Gallipoll in Europe and Seddulbehir in Asia in September, 1966. He also swam the entire stretch of the Strait of Bhoshphorous from the Black Sea to the Golden Horn in Istanbul in the same month. He became the first Asian and third non-American to swim through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific in October, 1966.

Three other Bengal swimmers emulated Sen in the next three years. They were Dr Bimal Chandra—France to England

(13:50:00) in 1959; Arati Saha—France to England (16:20:00) in 1959 and Nitindra Narayan Ray—France to England (19:00:00) in 1961.

Arati Saha's crossing of the Channel was as touching as that of Sen.
Coming from a lower middle-class family, she faced severe financial problems. So she approached the then Chief Minister of Bengal Dr B.C. Roy at the Writers' Building at Calcutta. He first dissuaded her by saying: "Tomaar maatha kharab hoey kechey; tumi Bengali meye, ghare jao, ranna-banna karo. Channeler katha bhoole jao? (Have you gone mad? You are a Bengali girl, go home and cook, forget about swimming across the Channel).

The adamant Arati, 19, ignored the Chief Minister's advice. She kept insisting and, in order to get rid of her,

ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

BRAVO!

MASADUR BAIDYA became the first physically handicapped swimmer from Asia to cross the English Channel

MASADUR RAHMAN BAIDYA. A name, till recently, unfamiliar to most Indians. A name which today commands respect and inspires awe. For, this man has achieved practically the impossible.

On the 29th of July, Baidya conquered the English Channel. And, in doing so, he became the first handicapped swimmer from Asia —and the second in the world—to accomplish this feat. Baidya is orthopaedically handicapped, having lost both his legs, knee downwards, in a train accident at the tender age of 11. A fact, which probably would have devastated most and resigned them to a life of dependancy.

But Baidya was made of sterner stuff. He had ambitions which he was determined to fulfil—legs or no legs. Armed with artificial 'legs' acquired from the Poona Artificial Limb Centre, Baidya set about asserting his independence. And then he took to swimming—mind you, without the help of artificial limbs, literally shouldering the pressure of the water.

Of course, it was not easy. But
Baidya was prepared. Long,
laborious hours in the water
started fetching rich dividends. He
emerged with flying colours in the
inter-club competitions. But,
long-distance swimming beckoned
him. In 1989, he took part in the
Ahiritola Youth Swimming
Club-organised 14 km swim on the
Hooghly and finished fifth. He went
on to complete, in 1993, the 81 km
stretch on the Bhagirathi,
swimming non-stop for 13 hours.
For this he had to put in 12 hours of

practice daily.

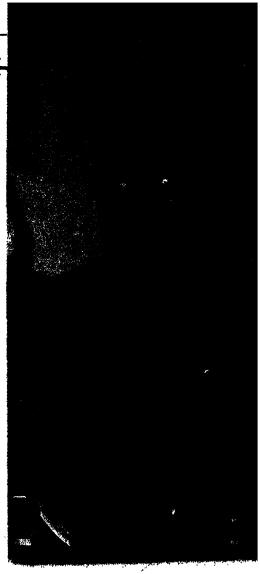
Then it was operation English Channel. And here he was faced with a bigger handicap—finances. Baidya comes from a lower middle class family of Calcutta and under no circumstance were they in a position to shoulder the enormous expenditure that the Channel attempt would involve.

That was when the state government stepped into the picture as a messiah and agreed to sponsor him. An elated Baidya, brimming with hope and confidence, left for England in 1996. But providence interfered. Unfavourable climactic conditions prevented him from attempting the Dover to Calais stretch.

"How deeply disappointed I was then," recalls Baidya. "How unhappy not to be allowed into the waters." Back home and another year's wait later, Baidya returned to England to swim his way into history.

And then the response the feat evoked was the kind that dreams are made of, Congratulatory messages and calls poured in, including one from the Prime Minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, the BBC Radio broadcast an interview with him on its Bengali station, "and a photographer from a daily from The Netherlands shot about 500 photographs of mine," says an excited Baidya. On his arrival back home, he was taken round the city in a procession in a flower-decked jeep. Then followed numerous receptions and awards, including one from the state-government.

His head firmly on his shoulders despite all the adulation, Baidya





Masadur Baidya: dedicated his success to his countrymen

humbly dedicates his success to his countrymen. "Their good wishes," he believes "went a long way to provide me with the courage to attempt the feat.

"But then, given the determination, there is hardly any odds man would fail to overcome," he signs off.

Madhumita Ganguly

ROLL OF HONOUR

List of Indians who have crossed the English Channel

- 1. Mihir Sen (Bengal) 14:45.00 1958
- **2**. Dr Bimal Chandra (Bengal) 13:50.00 1959
- 3. Arati Saha (Bengal) 16:20.00 1959
- 4. Nitindra Narayan Ray (Bengal) 19:00:00 1961
- **5.** Avinash Sarang (Bombay) 16:15:00 1974
- **6.** Taranath Shenoy (Maharashtra) 10:54:00 1983
- 7. Bijoy Jain (Maharashtra) 8:42:00 1983
- 8. Shailesh Kialje (Maharashtra) 10:04:00 1986
- 9. Arati Pradhan (Maharashtra) 12:24:00 1986
- **10.** Anita Sood (Bombay) 8:15:00 1987
- 11. Rajeev Gadgil (Maharashtra) 10:51:00 1987
- **12.** Rajesh Gadgil (Maharashtra) 11:50:00 1987
- 13. Abhijit Rao (Maharashtra)
- 14:30:00 1988 14. Nayna Malapurkar
- (Maharashtra) 15:14:00 1988 **15.** Harsh Thakore (Maharashtra) 15:02:00 1988
- **16.** Rajaram Gharg (Maharashtra) 12:40:00 1988
- **17.** Akhil Desai (Maharashtra) 15:07:00 1989
- **18.** Abhijit Datey (Maharashtra) 15:36:00 1989
- **19.** Bula Choudhury (Bihar) 10:46:00 1989
- **20.** Rihen Mehta (Maharashtra) 11:33:00 1994
- **21.** V. Kutraleeswaran (Madras) 11:36:00 1994
- 22. Rupali Ramdas Repale (Maharashtra) 16:07:00 1994
- 23. Masadur Rahman Baidya (Bengal) 17:06:00 1997

he offered her a meagre sum of Rs.700. However, Dr. Roy also phoned three industrialists to help her Arati's first attempt was abortive, but she succeeded in the second, to become the first woman in Asia to cross the Channel. She received the Padma Shree in 1959. The scene for crossing the Channel shifted to Maharashtra, which threw one outstanding marathoner after another. Among them were Avinash Sarang and Taranath Shenoy.

Although he was hearing-impaired and blind in one eye with only 30 per cent vision in the other, Taranath proved to the world that being handicapped and having a paucity of funds were no deterrent for him to conquer the Channel.

point but at the finishing post, he not only wore a huge grin but looked a big man. He started from Shakespeare Bay (Dover) at 4.43 a.m. and was home at Cap Gris Nez (France) at 4.16 p.m. (11 hrs and 33 mins). This was on July 29, 1994.

Two other youngsters earned the distinction in 1994. One of them was a 12-year-old girl, Rupali Ramdas Repale (Bombay). She crossed the Channel on the auspicious day of



Maharashtra's Anita Sood was one of the few Indian women swimmers to cross the Channel

Taranath was the sixth child of Rajiv Shenoy. He crossed the Channel on August 10, 1983. (time: 10:54:00). He achieved this distinction after successfully crossing the Palk Straits in 1981. He added many more laurels during his career. His deeds inspired Anita Sood, Bijoy Jain and Arati Pradhan to get into endurance swimming.

Over to the south and up comes the name of Kutraleeswaran Kutraleeswaran, then a student of class eight in Madras, created history when he crossed five major channels in a calendar year. (1994), to equal the legendary Sen's record. In achieving this tremendous hallmark, he became the first Indian and the youngest in the world to swim across the treacherous Australian Channel.

For 13-year-old Rihen Mehta, the Channel was a mammoth blanket of water. He was shivering at the entry

August 15, 1994.

There are many touching and inspiring incidents associated with the Indians crossing the Channel. But Rupali got encouragement from her school-mates in the Bright High School in Bombay. Each child contributed Rs 2. She, got, in total, Rs.10,000 from her school. "This was worth millions," said the kid-swimmer, adding: "My school-mates motivated me to accomplish the arduous task."

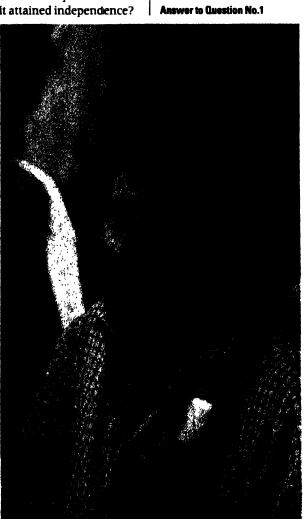
The latest addition to the list of endurance swimmers (see box) is Masadur Rahman Baidya of Calcutta. Having lost both his legs at the age of 11, the publicity-shy swimmer became a hero when he crossed the English Channel in the wee hours of Tuesday (29.7.97), to become the first physically handicapped swimmer from India to achieve the feat

Q READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

- Which cricketer won the Arjuna
 Award for the first time?
- Who was India's first international master in chess?
- 3. Who scored the first century for India after it attained independence?

- Which boxer was referred to as the 'Brown Bomber'?
- 5 Which batsman was called the 'Man With The Golden Arm'?
- 6. What is Zugzwang in chess?
- In the '75 Auckland
 Test, a bouncer from
 Peter Lever almost claimed
 the life of Ewan Chatfield.
 Who was responsible for
 saving his life?
- 8 In his book, David Gower described him



as the luckiest batsman in the world. Who was he?

- In John Huston's classic film *Escape to* victory what is the name of the character played by Pele?
- The Lloyds Bank tournament in 1982 saw one of the greatest upsets in the history of chess. Who caused the upset?

Who was the first player to use a helmet in Test cricket?



Answer to Question No.9

ANSWERS

- 1. Salim Durrani.
- 2. Manuel Aaron.
- 3. Vince Mankad.
- 4. Joe Louis.
- 5. Mudassar Nazar.
- 8. A situation in which a player would not prefer to move at all. Since the rule does not permit him to do so, he is forced to weaken his position.
- 7. English physio Bernard Thomas
- & Sunii Gavaskar.
- S. Pelc.
- 18. Dibyendu Barua when he upset Victor Korchnol.
- 11. Graham Yallop.

THIS QUIZ HAS BEEN COMPILED BY



SUBIR KUMAR SEN, C-7/4, KARUNAMOYEE HOUSING ESTATE, CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL, PIN-700 091

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their ruiz.



CARTOON CORNER

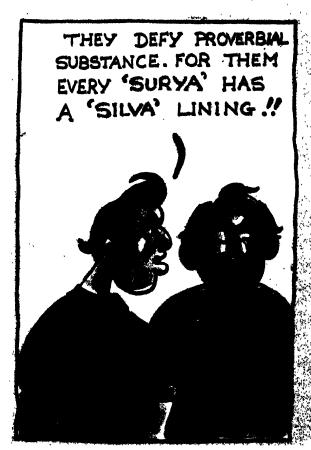
ARTHUR CARDOZO focuses on Sri Lanka's cricketing exploits in the recent past















HEN the band of the Orissa Special Armed Police started playing the famous and inspirational — "Hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab ek din..."the atmosphere on platform No.3 at the Bhubaneshwar railway station was electric and charged with emotion. The cricket lovers of Orissa burst strings of crackers and tears were rolling down the cheeks of a emotional few when the Dhauli Express rolled into the station that noon in July.

The people were awaiting the return of Orissa's new found cricketing star: Debashish Mohanty. With flowers in their hands the young members of Sahid Sporting Club went searching for their hero who had made it to the senior Indian cricket team—a first for Orissa. And when they spotted Debashish's smiling face from behind the window pane of an AC compartment, the crowd went

WORK IN PROGRESS

DEBASHISH MOHANTY might be the first Test cricketer from Orissa, but he still has a lot of work to do before he becomes an established India player

FROM SURENDRA PATRA, BHUBANESHWAR

berserk. They lifted him on their shoulders and carted him away amidst scenes that can well be described as bordering on a mad frenzy. And this celebration was not after Debashish Mohanty's return from Sri Lanka.

These were the scenes that occurred after he had come back for a day to meet his parents from the conditioning camp in Bangalore and

In high spirits: Debashish Mohanty made the people of Orissa and the selectors proud when he took four wickets in his first Test innings

was to leave the next day for Chennai from where they were flying out.

When he moved through the streets of the state capital the traffic virtually came to a halt. From state government offices to central government concerns, from private shops to government high schools and colleges, work stopped everywhere and employees came out with flowers in their hands to welcome their hero.

On the 9th of August, the state of Orissa witnessed many of their citizens preferring to stay indoors. It was not because some political party had called for a bandh, but because Mohanty was in the playing XI; Orissa's first Test cricketer was making his debut. They did not have to wait for long as Mohanty, in only his 13th delivery, got his team the coveted wicket of Sanath Jayasuriya who had plundered 340 runs in the first Test.

Mohanty's mother's prayers (she had visited the Jagannath Temple in Puri to seek divine blessings the day before) had finally been answered. Debashish followed his dream start in the first innings with figures of 20.4-5-78-4 and finished the Test with 15.2-0-72-0 in the second innings. Most importantly, he impressed with his attitude and his ability to move the ball both ways off the wicket.

Cricket in Orissa had finally come of age; his showing proved to the selectors that talent does exist in the most unlikely of states. Mohanty, the lanky speedster from Jagatsinghpur, had finally broken the jinx. Earlier on, Orissa had seen many promising junior cricketers but none could make an impact in the senior grade.

It was because of this pathetic backdrop that Mohanty's inclusion and his performace has evoked the passion that was witnessed in his home state. Earlier Mohanty was selected for the four nation SAARC tournament in Dhaka but that was not enough to get him the nod.

He had burst onto the domestic

scene with a bang when he tormented Bengal batsmen in his debut Ranji Trophy match in 1996 and ended up with a match haul of nine wickets. The 21-year-old bowler claimed 30 wickets in the domestic season.

Riding on this new ball bowler's superb performance, the Orissa team

six wickets to help East Zone clinch the title. Dismissing four batsmen of the North Zone team, he won the man-of-the -match award. Despite these top-quality performances, the people of Orissa never thought that Mohanty could make it to the probables of the senior team, let alone,



CAMAL JULKA

came from behind to finish runners up in the East Zone league and qualified for the Ranji Trophy Super league championship. Mohanty was then included in the East Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy tie against North Zone where, with his explosive opening spell, Mohanty dismissed two North Zone batsmen to give East Zone an early breakthrough.

But Mohanty remained handicapped as the wicket turned out to be a spinner's paradise. As the march progressed, the pacers found it difficult to deliver the goods but the first spell of Mohanty with the new ball was so eye-catching that it earned him a berth in the East Zone team which was preparing itself for the Deodhar Trophy:

In the Deodhar Trophy he bagged

Ali Irani watches as Mohanty is all set to cut his birthday cake in Sri Lanka. So far he has shouldered his responsibility in a very professional manner

make a Test debut.

As his father Sarbeswar Mohanty, a section officer in the women and child welfare department of the Govt. of Orissa said that though he supported Debashish, nobody thought that he could come this far. Mohanty himself said that "it was because of God and coach Kamal Ganguly that I came so far."

The pressures will now be felt by this cricketer. He has to live up to the expectations of his state while also performing well at the international level. How he copes with the pressures will decide whether Orissa's first Test cricketer can become a real Kaamyab cricketer.



FIELD MARSHALS

Apart from helping injured drivers in a F1 race, race marshals remain prepared for any contingency on the circuit

BY K.O. JACOB

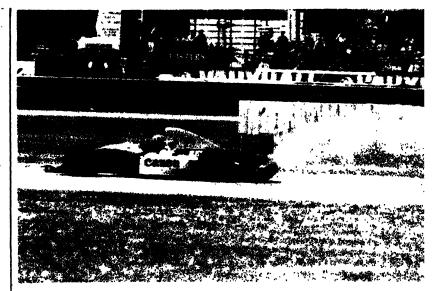
ILLIONS of fans who follow the highly challenging sport of Formula One are familiar with that hollow feeling in the pit of their stomachs when a F1 car comes hurtling around the circuit at speeds of over 150 mph and then goes off the tarmac into a wall or a tyre barricade.

While everyone is thinking about the late of the driver inside, very few think about, or even notice the people in brilliantly coloured outfits, with armbands and two-way radios who rush across to help the driver involved in the crash. Yes, we are talking about the marshals who rushed to Olivier Panis' rescue at the Canadian Grand Prix when he was stuck in his car with broken legs.

These unsung heroes who leap over fences and down banks to rescue the drivers get nothing for sharing his risk. It is a fearful, often thankless job and worse still, they get paid nothing to save the lives of the glamorous, millionaire Formula One drivers. What very few realise is that without these marshals not a single Formula One race would happen anywhere in the world. Yet, these highly trained, motivated and fearless marshals are actually volunteers who normally engage in law, business, managerial jobs or even road sweeping to earn their daily bread.

This band forgoe's between 10 to 50 days in a year, mostly on weekends to ensure the highest levels of safety and organisation during the qualifying sessions and then on the race day itself. Marshalling is a dead serious

Not an elien from outer space, he's just a fire marshal keeping track of the proceedings



From fire fighting, to life saving techniques in case of accidents, the marshels have to be ready for any eventuality

job; hundreds of marshals get together on weekends for intensive training, instruction and refresher courses throughout the year. These crash courses cover everything from extinguishing fires to cutting the body of the wrecked and mangled cars to extricate the drivers.

This intensive training is imparted in stages and each of the various levels of marshalling takes at least a year. Rookies begin as white-armbanded trainees and are virtually joined at the hip' to an experienced marshal to learn the ropes. After the minimum of a year, the learner can become a course marshal (green armband), then fire marshal, flagging marshal, incident officer and observer, before qualifying for the race control room which is the nervous system of any Grand Prix race.

The race control team is in constant touch

It is a fearful,
often thankless
job and worse
still, the marshals
get paid nothing
to save the lives
of the glamorous
millionaire drivers





When a driver skids off the track the marshals rush in to assist the driver and also warn the cars following him

When the marshals are there on the circuit, before the safety cars come on, they are in the way of the other F1 cars hurtling past at over 100mph speeds without any protection



with the race, thanks to close-circuit televisions which pan through every inch of the circuit. The race control team also monitors the non-stop radio communications that are passed from the marshals and incident officers, and then decide whether there is the need to send back-up crews in the form of a doctor, ambulances or rescue crews.

Like elite paramilitary troops and marine forces the marshals are taught to assess the danger of a situation as fast as possible and combat it with maximum efficiency and minimum risk.

Pam and Garry Dearn are a husband and wife team who have almost 40 years of trackside experience between them. Gary, the chief incident officer at Silverstone (the British racing marshals pride themselves as being the best in the business) recalled an instance when the training came in useful, "At one Grand Prix, a car came out from the pits and they had forgotten to fasten the fuel cap. The driver realised he was on fire when he spun on his own fuel. He was running away from the burning car and we, like idiots, were running towards it, to put the fire out. It is the adrenalin of getting the job done and as marshals, we work as a close-knit family."

The surge of adrenalin makes the marshals' forget the dangers to which they remain vulnerable when they rush to attend to crashes or accidents. When they are there on the circuit, before the safety cars come on, these marshals are in the way of the other F1 cars hurtling past at over 100 mph speeds, without any protection.

As Gary Dearn explained, "If you are out on the track dealing with an incident and another car comes through at race speed and it goes behind you through the gravel, that can get worrying, because then you don't have any protection." It is this awareness of a constant threat that is responsible for many marshals seeking counselling and treatment for stress and excitement.

Forget the notion that becoming marshals is a cheap and exciting way to view a Formula One race. The marshals have no chance of seeing a race unfold. "You have to concentrate on your part of a corner or straight. You spend the race staring at one part of the track. You don't follow a car through a corner or turn to watch a car go down the straight. If you did, you might miss the next car, which could be coming straight at you," elaborated Dearn.

David Pierre, one of the leading rescue marshals of Britain, put his job in the right perspective, "One of the first priorities is never to let the marshals go in and add to the casualty by putting themselves at great risk. There is obviously a vulnerability, you accept that, but when you know what you are doing, it is like the situation of trying to rescue a drowning man, you only go in to a depth that you can be of use. I have two basic rules: stay and play, or scoop and run.

"By that I mean if you've assessed the danger and the driver in his seat is not at imminent risk of being hit by another vehicle, if he is breathing, then you keep him talking and start preparing for what the doctor needs from you.

"You scoop and run, only if it's so critical that you have to get the driver out, and take the consequences that, in doing so, you might contribute to him becoming a paraplegic or worse."

Now, if you are wondering what you need to become a race marshal...well, it takes nothing. It is a job that cuts across all barriers, both cultural and social. Like one marshal sold his business for 14 million pounds before the British GP, while another of his colleagues was on the dole. ●

SAMBAHOHO!

Brazilian samba dancers entertain South Korean fans before a friendly match between Brazil and South Korea at Seoul's Olympic Stadium



DIPPING INTO THEIR

A considerable number of children who took part in the recent Asia-Pacific Age-Group Aquatic Championships in Taipei had to personally bear the cost of the whole trip instead of the Swimming Federation of India picking up the tab

OT long ago—in fact when live-wire Margaret Alva was the Sports Minister—she had repeatedly asserted that the Government would not let any individual pay for his/her participation in international meets while donning the country's colours. But even in the Golden Jubilee Year of India's Independence, children are still treated harshly instead of nurturing their talent.

A number of children in the 40-plus contingent for the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Age-Group Aquatic Championships in Taipei, for example, had to 'beg, borrow or steal' to raise funds before they could get on the Air India flight via Bangkok to take part in the meet.

The probables for the team were chosen on the basis of their performance in the Pune sub-junior and junior meet. All the short-listed swimmers/divers were provided training at the Talkatora pool (Delhi) by a team of coaches.

The Sports Ministry cleared only 11—nine swimmers/divers (five boys and four girls) and two coaches,
Divya Chadha, a promising young swimmer is pictured training at the Talkators poll in New Delhi. If they keep paying from their own pocket, then a swimming career is going to be an expensive proposition

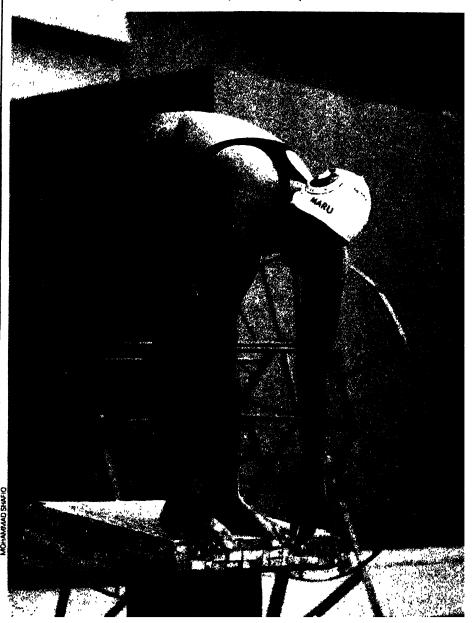
Ashok Sharma (Railways) for diving and Mohite (Bangalore) for swimming. The remaining 30-plus were cleared at 'no cost to the government'.

The eleven 'fortunates', who were cleared by the Ministry, were asked by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) to pay Rs.27,000 each for board and lodging and kit, while the remaining were asked to pay a whopping Rs.52,000 each.

This, in itself, was shocking. But what was most deplorable — and

rather disgraceful—was that several concessions, such as four free tickets and discount admissable under Group Inclusive Tour (GIT), were utilised by officials instead of providing relief to the really needy kids.

Had the concessions been equally shared or split among all the participants, the quantum of payment would have been reduced by about Rs. 10,000. But the SFI sadly adheres to two sets of rules—one for favourite officials and another for participants. Incidentally, the scheduled fare



OWN POCKETS

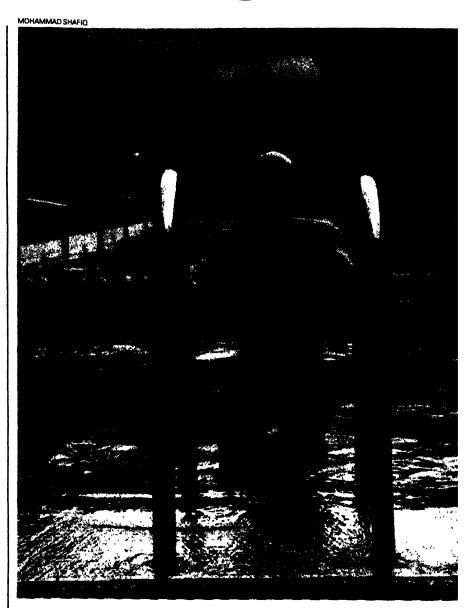
(economy) for Delhi-Taipei-Delhi was Rs.29,212. But the SFI reportedly paid less than Rs.23,000.

The foreign exchange dealer came to the Talkatora pool on the eve of the team's departure on August 19 and sold dollars to selected members. Everyone was asked to buy foreign exchange worth at least 350 dollars. Of this amount, 50 dollars were given to each member of the team for his personal use, while the remaining 300 dollars were collected to defray charges for board and lodging for five nights at the rate of 60 dollars a night. The exchange rate for that day was Rs. 36. 35 for a dollar.

The pertinent questions that arise are:

- 1. What is the purpose of the national body, called the SFI, if it cannot raise funds to cater to the needs of the swimmers and divers, chosen to represent the country?
- 2. What is the purpose of the state units, like, Mumbai, Bengal and Karnataka, if they are unable to help their own wards, who toil hard to bring glory to the state?
- 3. Why should coaches/officials, who have contributed precious little, get preferential treatment to that of the swimmers/divers, who are really more important? Without the presence of a team, no official or coach can go abroad.
- 4. If the present set of office-bearers have outlived their utility and are in no position to promote the cause of aquatics in the country, why are they allowed to continue to hold responsible positions year in and year out?

In this age-group meet, there is an open section where age is not a barrier. All the leading countries depute those talented youngsters to take part in this group when they have not qualified to participate in their own age-group. But, sadly, the SFI had allowed a renowned swimmer like Olympian Sebastian Xavier, to



SFI fouls up. When a talented junior should have been allowed to participate in the open section at Taipei, the officials opted for the vastly experienced Sebestian Xavier

take part. Naturally, he wins a few gold medals, as he did a few years ago when the meet was held at Delhi. The SFI gloats, for its misguided achievements.

Just spare a thought as to what would be the reaction of the people in the country if established stars, like Lean'der Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sachin Tendulkar are sent to take part in age-group meets. Why should Sebastian Xavier have been cleared even if the affiliated unit contributed all the money required for his participation?

B.S. Adityan has been a seasoned official in the world of Indian sports. If he cannot set matters right in the federation (SFI) that he heads, will he be able to manage competently the Indian Olympic Association?

K.R.Wadhwaney

NEWS IN PIX

Snippets of happenings in and out of the country

Star-studded Bengal Tigers won the Mobile Net 10's inter-city rugby trophy at the Calcutta Cricket & Foetball Club ground. The Tigers notched up an effortless 20-7 victory over Bombay Gymkhana A in the Main Plate V. final. But the Gymkhana B team salvaged some reputation by winning the Locars' Plate. They trounced Delhi Rattlesnekes 21-7 1 Zenero Lo. BRI



TENDULKAR'S ARROGANCE

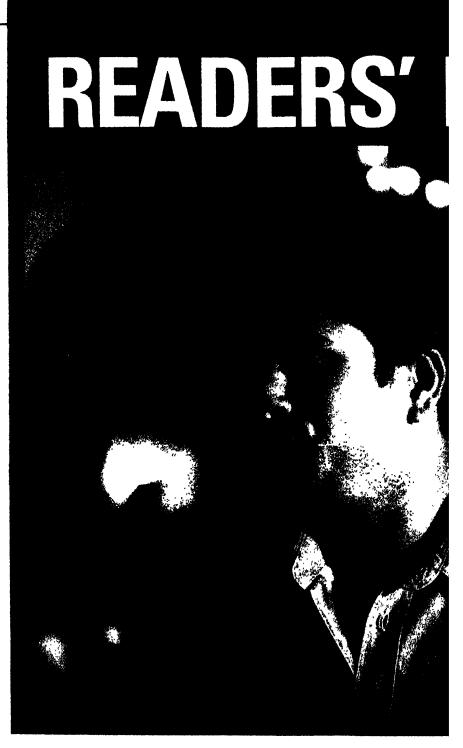
ACHIN TENDULKAR, might or might not, have branded the cricket team selected for the Asia Cup as B-grade, but it is an open secret that he is unhappy with the team; this betrays his vanity and arrogance. He should note that his appointment as the captain merely means leading the group of fourteen selected; it does not entail him to make Indian cricket his personal fiefdom.

As a captain, he can advise the selectors all right, but trying to impose his will on them is absolutely preposterous. The selectors might make mistakes, but that is another matter, to be dealt with, at a different level.

Obviously Sachin was adamant about the inclusion of Vinod Kambli over Azharuddin or Sidhu; and Nayan Mongia over Saba Karim. Azharuddin and Sidhu are more experienced and better match-winners than Vinod Kambli. A half-century by Kambli in just one match against a second string bowling attack on a batting wicket, and another in an exhibiton tie against a third string bowling attack (both against Pakistan) cannot be yardsticks to retain a player in the squad.

Had Kambli been a genuinely good batsman, he would have scored at least a century or stayed on till the very end in that match against Pakistan at Chennai, and would have contributed substantially against Sri Lanka at Bangalore. The same goes for Mongia. He has had numerous opportunities with the bat, and has scored some good scores. But there is not a single one-day match he has won, either with his batting or his keeping. On the other hand, Saba Karim's wicketkeeping was a major factor in India winning the second one-dayer at Trinidad in the West Indies.

If Sachin is so concerned about rehabilitating Kambli, why isn't he that keen on rehabilitating the likes of



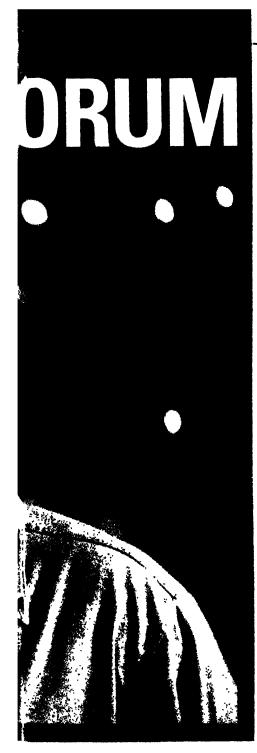
Ajay Sharma, Atul Wassan and Raman Lamba—all of whom have played for India in the past, and all of whom have performed better than Kambli in last year's Ranji Trophy season.

Obviously, power has gone to Sachin's head, and he has a feeling that he is the 'master of all he surveys' in the cricketing world. The only way to deflate his ego is to drop him from the squad altogether for one series and re-instate Azharuddin as the captain.

NAYAB NASEER Cochin

BAN TYSON FOR LIFE

T a time when there is so much of violence in the world, boxing, as a sport, enhances the



violent spirit. The bizarre drama of Mike Tyson biting the ears of Evander Holyfield in a boxing ring at Las Vegas has evoked universal condemnation and revulsion.

June 29, that ugly Saturday, will remain a scar in boxing. Mike Tyson's violent act forced the referee, Lane, to disqualify him after the third round of the heavyweight title fight. In that one act, Tyson undid all the good work of former great boxers.

However, Evander Holyfield retained the championship title.

Tyson has ruined his reputation despite his achievements in the ring. Earlier, Tyson was accused of rape and spent three years in prison. Tyson's career has not been a shining example. He doesn't seem to be a man who has a stable mind. If Tyson is a brute, Holyfield is no angel either. He also bit his opponent's shoulder a few years ago.

The administrators are aware of the dangers involved in boxing. Over the years, effective measures have been taken to minimise the impact of the blows, like enlarging the thickness of the gloves, insisting on the compulsory use of helmet and padding. Additional powers were also given to the referees to stop the bouts, when it was going out of control. The number of rounds was also reduced and the time for each was shortened.

All this does not guarantee that the sport is safe. A life ban on Tyson is absolutely necessary to preserve the health of boxing.

H.SANDEEP PURANIK, Hassan, Karnataka

THE BRAT PACK

think Steffi Graf should retire because I do not think she will be the same anymore after her surgery,'—Martina Hingis, World No. 1

'Being pretty or having a good game is just not enough. You need to have it all, the talent, the looks, the brain and the drive'.—Anna Kournikova, World No.47

'I think I'll go very far and I'll leave the rest of them behind. With my height and aggressiveness, I will became the Michael Jordan of tennis.'— Venus Starr Williams.

These three are the fresh whiffs of air in women's tennis, all aged 16, but the truth is that they are all arrogant brats who are damaging the image of

the game. Personally speaking, I have been an ardent Steffi Graf fan and will continue to be so even after her retirement.

The reigning queen Martina Hingis and the up and coming contenders for the crown are all very haughty, arrogant, saucy and proud of their positions. Though Kournikova and Williams are nowhere near the lofty standards of the Graf's and Seles' now, they are undoubtedly numero uno as far as fruitless bragging is concerned.

The 16-year-olds of yesteryears were shy and fearful as compared to today's brat pack. The fact that hundreds turn up to see Kournikova practise with as little clothes as possible and that cameramen hold contests between themselves as to which girl wears the shortest skirt makes me wonder if tennis is a decent game any more.

The remark made by Kournikova that she was prettier and more marketable than Hingis after getting drubbed 6-0, 6-0 by her in the 1994 U.S. Open junior championships describes the turn for the worse which the game has taken, with the injection of so much money and publicity. Most of today's players tend to play for the dollars more than for the love of the game.

The love and the hunger to win, the glory and the ecstasy of it all, is being diminished by publicity hungry players. The wonderful understanding that existed between the players of previous eras is gone and is replaced by the savage will to win against each other. Winning the tournament is the most important thing.

I wish that, in the near future, tennis will throw up good natured champions who will prove to be a boon, for the game rather than what the recent brat pack is proving to be: a pain in the neck.

ARJUN SENGUPTA, Calcutta.



freewheeling

RICKET and jokes. They don't go together really! After all, cricket is the gentleman's game and very, very formal. Not for a die-hard Aussie. Nothing is sacred to an Aussie, especially if it has to do with the Poms.

Even if it is on radio.

FM entertainment in the morning is prime time for radio, and the competition is hot among the various FM commercial stations to win over the driving-to-work-listener. Part of the entertainment is talk back radio in the form of jokes.

Here are two examples of two Ashes cracks at the Poms: Do you know why the lady, who ordered a bunch of pansies from her florist, was angry?

Because she found they had delivered the English cricket team!

Do you know why the England captain Michael Atherton can't get a job at his uncle's funeral home?

Because he keeps losing the Ashes! Atherton's Australian counterpart Mark Taylor is not spared either.

A television program which spoofs current affairs events had one segment which portrayed a sponsor approaching a sports agent to get a sports star to wear his company's logo.

The agent tells the sponsor of how the best people to have to wear a logo are the rugby players because their broad chests allow for big broad writing. The agent drops the question: "By the way, how much are you willing to spend?"

"Actually, fifty dollars," replies the sponsor.

The agent is shocked and angry that he wasted his time. Suddenly his facial expression changes.

"Well, there is Mark Taylor's bat for that," he says with relief that he's got the business after all.

Even the evening television news is not formal enough to eliminate jokes.

The evening after one Premier League Aussie rules football star bared his backside to opposition fans, the sports news reader introduced the news of the "mooning" and added, "If you want to know whether it was a 'full moon' or a 'partial eclipse', then join us after this break."

I recall hearing a radio program during the time when Ian Botham and Imran Khan admitted they had tampered with the ball at some time during their careers. Botham had taken Imran to court, but when asked why he didn't take Doug Walters to

court for accusing him of cheating, Botham replied, "I don't care what any Aussie says about me. They talk rubbish anyway. I don't take them seriously."

Two radio broadcasters in Melbourne who are known to be a deadly duo, quoted what Botham had to say and then went to town abusing the living daylights out of 'Guy The Gorilla,' because he had given the Aussies permission to say what they wanted about him.

The biggest joke of all in these parts is of Shane Warne claiming that he wasn't giving 'The Finger Gesture' to the Poms after an Ashes Test. He was merely showing them his 'spinning finger,' the one that had done the damage to the English batting. Sure, and I'm going to be the next Pope at the Vatican. Well, at least the next time I'm driving and someone gives me the 'Good old Aussie Driving Salute', to show what he/she thinks of my driving skills, I'll know for sure that the person is merely trying to tell me is that he/she is a leg spinner.

Andy O'Brien, Australia

CARTOON ARTHUR CARDOZO



Whether it be or a local di Castrol lubrio. This interna available to y improved two-s me

Whether it be the World Motorcycle Grand Prix or a local dirt track event, champions choose Castrol lubricants to power their bikes to victory. This international winning technology is available to you in Castrol Super TT. The new improved two-stroke formula of Castrol Super TT meets the JASO FB & API-TC specifications and ensures.

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Advanced Formula Castrol Super TT is recommended for all two-stroke bikes which are required to give **smooth**, **trouble free**, **Champion' performance**, **mile after mile**.

So next time you select your oil, insist on the original "Champions' Choice", Castrol Super TT - the genuine TT oil. Castrol Super TT is available in 250 ml, 500 ml and 1 litre piller proof double sealed packs at all leading auto accessory shops

DON'T USE ANY 2T' OIL INSIST ONTHE ORIGINAL CASTROL SUPERTT.





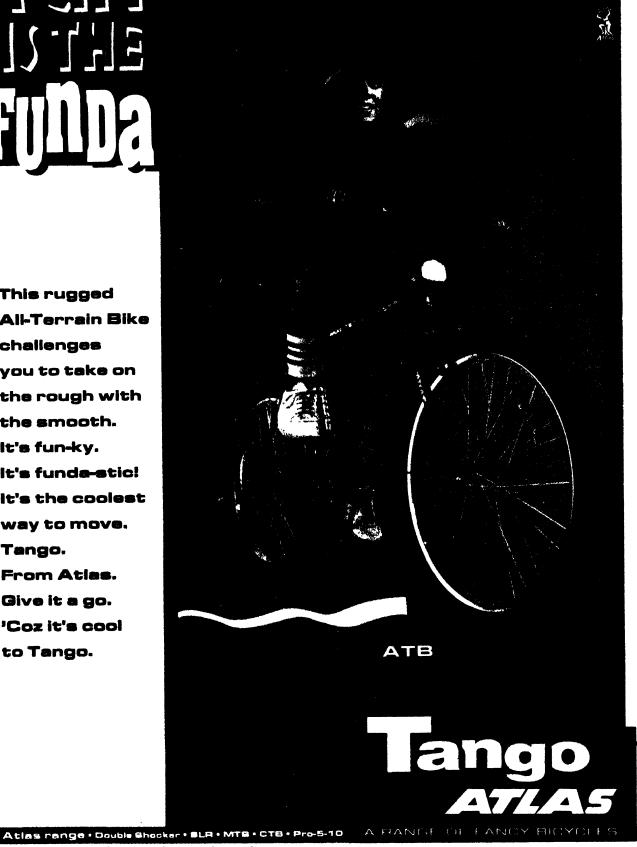
Race Tested Technology







This rugged All-Terrain Bike challenges you to take on the rough with the smooth. It's fun-ky. It's funda-stic! It's the coolest way to move. Tango. From Atlas. Give it a go. 'Coz it's cool to Tango.



JCTOBER, 1997. RS. 15.00

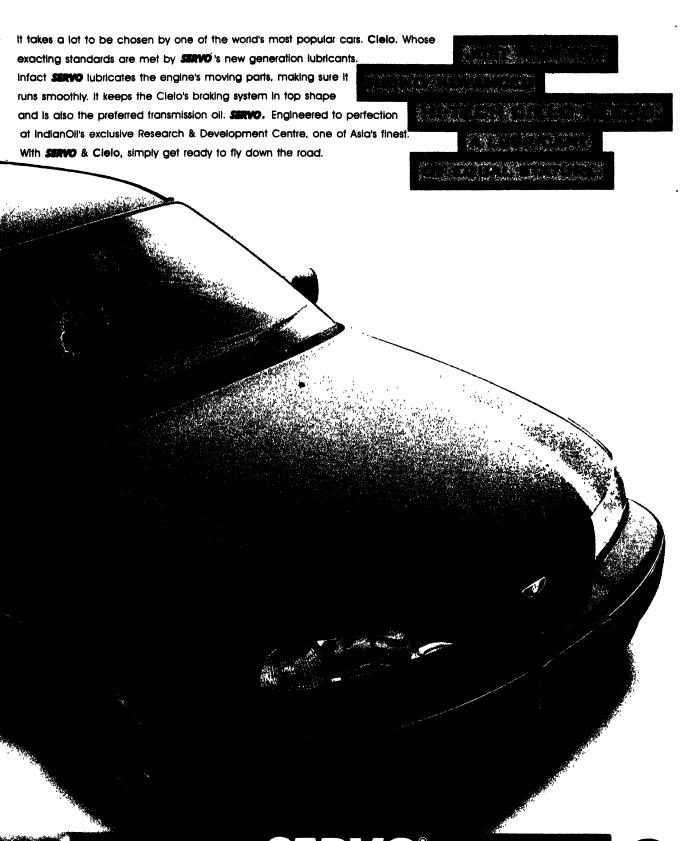
DAVIS CUP: INDIA TRIUMPHS SAHARA CUP: A

SAHARA CUP: A MORALE-BOOSTING WIN

UPAN CANCING

Mar William Alle

AURAV GANGULY has finally







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After a couple of close matches, India manages to go past Chile, to enter the Davis Cup World Group once again

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Editor: Mansur Alı Khan Pataudı

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CHILE: NOT TOO

After a few anxious moments India manages to defeat Chile to enter the Davis Cup World Group again

FROM AMITAVA DASGUPTA, NEW DELHI

HE heat was unbearable, the humidity killing. As the sweltering September afternoon wore on at the capital's R.K.Khanna Stadium, India's chances of retaining a slot in next year's Davis Cup World Group seemed to be melting under the sun. Gabriel Silberstein, the unfancied Chilean no.2 with practically no experience of playing on grass, surprised himself and the 4,000-strong Sunday audience by grabbing a two-set-to-love lead in the deciding fifth rubber against an edgy Mahesh Bhupathi, Disgruntled lans, who had earlier in the day seen an uncharacteristically subdued Leander Paes bow to Marcelo Rios in four sets after taking the first, started heading for the exit paths. So did some members of the press corps who thought it would be wiser to watch Silberstein perform the last rites on television in the air-conditioned comfort of the media centre.

Within half an hour, most of those who had quit the steaming, topless stadium had retraced steps back to their seats, as Bhupathi raised visions of a dream turnaround. From the abyss of mediocrity he had plunged into, Bhupathi pulled himself back in contention with the kind of attractive and llawless tennis which a top-tenner would be proud of

Bhupathi and Paes do the familier chest butting made famous by the Jensen brothers

maintaining over three sets. He unleashed thundering aces, drilled winners with his two-fisted backhand and put away volleys with the ferocity of a cheetah. The "best Davis Cup crowd" he had ever seen and the constant cheering from his teammates had helped Bhupathi scale a hitherto unconquered peak which lifted his country from the brink of disaster.

Up against a player ranked 40 slots higher on the ATP singles list,
Bhupathi had a slight edge only because of the surface they were playing on. While the Indian No.2 had

five ties on grass and also played qualified for the Wimbledon main draw this year, Silberstein displayed his helplessness on the surface during a three-set whitewash against Paes on Day One. Going into the match under much less pressure than Bhupathi, a relaxed Silberstein fired on all cylinders before being gunned down by his rejuvenated opponent. It was the dramatic come-from-behind nature of his victory that helped Bhupathi hijack the limelight from two more likely heroes—world No.7 Rios and Davis Cup wizard Paes.



HOT

Rios played his part, showing off his enviable talent in ample measure to cull out two four-set singles verdicts on a surface he still considers is "best suited for cows." Carrying the reputation of being an ill-tempered brat, the pony-tailed superstar focussed on his tennis and managed to steer clear of any controversy with a matured and efficient performance both on and off the field.

Still not 22, the left-hander's game is based on quick hands and an ability to deceive his rival. Not possessing a big serve by an stretch of imagination,

PHOTOGRAPHS RAIFSHIKUMAR



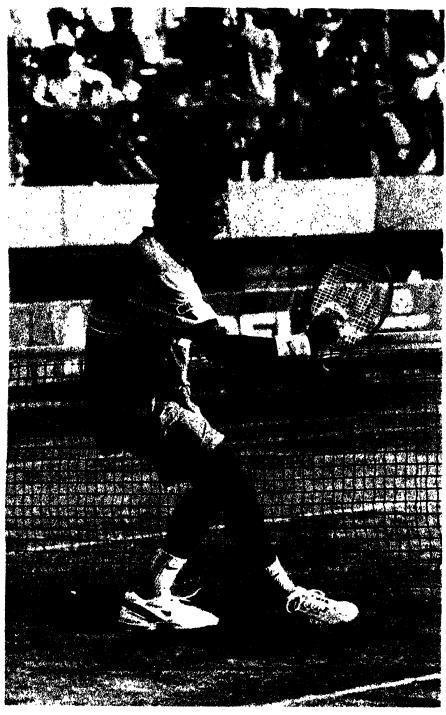


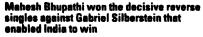
Smart, sassy and confident in his designer sunglasses, Leander Paes claps for his partner Mahesh Bhupathi in the singles

Rios can still bamboozle the receiver with wicked angles and a dangerous 'kick'. But the maximum damage is caused with a lethal forehand which opens up the court from any angle. Paes and Bhupathi would often be comfortably positioned in a rally before suddenly finding Rios' angled return an inch too far. That he didn't flinch after being outplayed in the second set by Bhupathi or after squandering two set-points to drop the first set tie-break to Paes, was a tribute to his unflappable temperament. Goran Ivanisevic had

found the conditions too tough two years ago when Croatia visited the Indian capital for a similar World Group play-off tie. The Crazy Croat had wilted under the pressure of carrying his country's hopes through three days of tortuous weather, but Rios passed the test admirably.

The only count on which the Chilean genius can be faulted is carrying a lackadaisical approach into the doubles rubber. Rios had, perhaps, given up that match because of three factors: a) not being a regular doubles player himself he much rather fancied Chile winning three singles; b) the strength of the Indian doubles team





which has had an amazing run this year; c) he didn't have much faith on doubles debutant Nicolas Massu despite the 17-year-old's US Open boys' doubles triumph a fortnight before the Cup tie. All solid reasons to have given US Open semi-finalists

Paes and Bhupathi a headstart, but Rios should have known that the Davis Cup is famous for throwing up the unthinkable.

The Indians, for their part, were a touch over-confident. Playing at home for the first time in their new avatar of potential world champions, the world No.5 pair committed too many basic errors to be in a position to

establish early ascendancy. Bhupathi was a bundle of nerves on key points. Paes was relatively more solid, but still conceded free points at the net.

With a disinterested Rios throwing in double-faults now and then—almost as if to oblige the screaming fans—it was upto Massu to bring in a sense of normalcy in the error-strewn match. The teenager, with a solitary



Cup singles match under his belt, used an unusual, low-toss service action and a whiplash forehand to good effect. Instead of Rios bearing the mantle of the elder statesman, it was Massu who carried the team and even managed to bring Rios back to life in the fourth and final sets.

Ironically, it was Massu who dropped serve in the tight final set. As

The Delhi crowd had plenty to cheer about, when India scraped past Chile 3-2

Bhupathi served for a 5-3 lead, the Indians choked and almost surrendered the initiative. Paes stabbed a volley wide at 15-30 only to hear the linesman calling the ball good. Then Bhupathi's second serve was ruled in when it was clearly an inch long. Those were two of the tie's

most important points, which could so easily have gone the other way and given the Chileans the impetus to go for the kill. And had Chile pulled off the doubles, not even Bhupathi's heroics would have sufficed in resurrecting India.

If doubles was the local point in what was always going to be a close tie, a lot of attention was also riveted

TIME FOR CHANGE

Hardcourts should now be viewed as another option to grass for Davis Cup ties in India because both Bhupathi and Paes are comfortable playing on them

POR years, India opted for grass when it came to choosing the surface for a Davis Cup tie at home. The reason was twofold—to give our natural grasscourters their most favoured surface and also to plant an element of doubt in the minds of rivals who rarely get to play on grass. More often than not, this tactic has worked wonders as our lowly-ranked players have scalped fancied rivals with monotonous regularity. None more so than our current No. 1 star. Leander Paes.

Even as we celebrate another creditable victory—this time, over Marcelo Rios' gutsy Chilean team—it's perhaps time to think hard whether we should rethink our strategy vis-a-vis home ties,

Gone are the days when Paes served-and-volleyed his way to glory on grass. The last time he played a high-quality match on grass against a classy opposition was three years ago in Jaipur when Wayne Ferriera and Grant Stafford succumbed to his guiles. He struggled against Croatia in '95, getting through the crucial match against Goran Ivanisevic with considerable 'help' from the Crazy Croat. Last year, Paes managed to win just one of three singles rubbers in two Cup ties at home (versus Holland and Sweden). The four-set defeat to Rios further deflated Paes' record on grass. More than the results themselves, it has been the rather uninspiring final-day performances which have disappointed Paes fans.

With hardcourts being Paes' most preferred surface outside the Davis Cup, his ATP Tour results have been on the upswing. One of his three career semi-final appearances—in Shanghai—and the Atlanta Olympic bronze-medal showing were both achieved on hardcourts. And then, he made it to the third round of a Grand Slam singles for the first time at the US Open this year.

When one also takes into account the fact that Bhupathi's favourite surface has always been a hardcourt, the case for a shift in Davis Cup strategy gets stronger. "I don't really mind playing Davis Cup on hardcourts.... it is Mahesh's best surface and I have been playing quite a lot on it too", says Paes.

If we do indeed shift from grass, the biggest beneficiaries (apart from Bhupathi) would be Mumbai and Chennai. The two metros haven't hosted a Cup tie for ages simply because they don't have a decent grasscourt, though both boast of excellent hardcourt facilities at the MSLTA complex and the Nungambakkam Stadium, respectively. Very soon, though it could be Calcutta's turn to experience the Davis Cup drought. The need of the hour is a modern tennis stadium.

Amitava Dasgupta





Marcelo Rios, the seventh seed, falls to his knees after he defeats Paes in the reverse singles

the Rios versus Paes clash on Sunday morning. Rios' talent notwithstanding, Paes could never be written off in a Davis Cup clash. The likes of Ivanisevic, Wayne Ferreira, Arnaud Boetsch, Jiri Novak and Hen. Leconte had discovered the Paes magic over the years and Rios wasn't underestimating his opponent even though the Indian was a hundred slot lower in the rankings.

Paes did well to fight off two set points and a 0-4 deficit in the tie-breal to snatch the first set. And just when the involved crowd expected their hero to press the accelerator, Paes slumped and stuttered to a level he has scarcely touched in seven years of distinguished Davis Cup play. From 4-2 in the second set, the Indian lost 11 consecutive games to trail one set to two. The previous alternoon's energy-sapping three-and-a-half-hour doubles had taken its toll, but what was quite

taken its toll, but what was quite inexplicable was how 'dead' man Paes—who could hardly move around the court for a set and a half—sprang to life and put up a fight in the fourth set.

It was a too little too late anyway, what with the cool Rios shrugging off the heat and sticking to the basics remarkably well. But the stigma of a 0-6 blanking in a home Cup tie may never be crased.

If Paes' dismal outing with Rios was a major surprise, the biggest revelation was Bhupathi's improved fitness and fighting qualities. Potentially a dangerous customer with a huge serve and penetrating groundstrokes, the Bangalorean had often been found wanting in fitness on big occasions. Even that tie-clinching win against the Dutch in Jaipur last year—when Jacco Eltingh retired after the fourth set—had not convinced the critics.

Now, after lasting 14 sets over three days in the most trying conditions, Bhupathi seems to have turned over a new leaf. And that's good news for his friend and partner, who can afford to take it a bit easy in Cup matches.

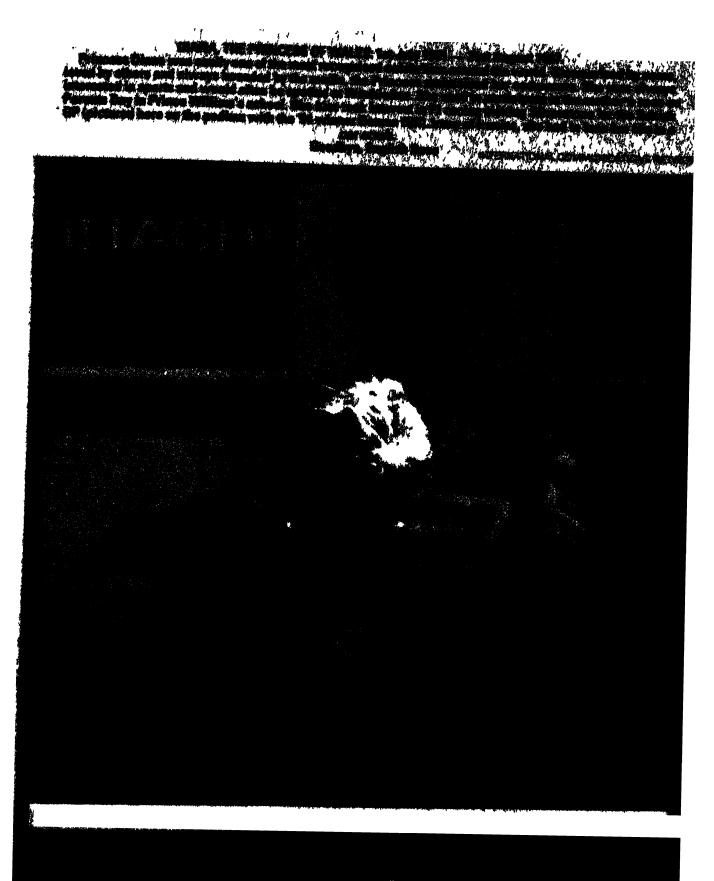
FAREWELL...

Our tributes to Mother Teresa and Princess Diana

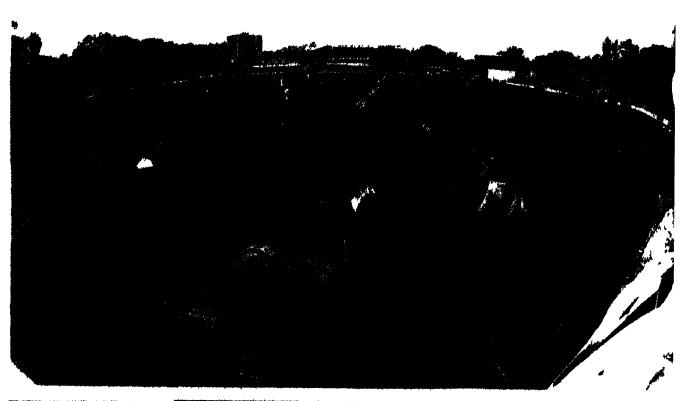


ASHCKE CHAKNABORT

MOTHER TENESA: 30th Amount 1965 --- Sh Tantonius 196



DESH KA SAHARA



The Indian team did the nation proud by lifting the Sahara Cup in Toronto





(Clockwise from top)The Indian team and the umpires observe a two-minute silence in memory of Mother Teresa

Victory at last. After some lacklustre performances in the recent past the Indian team played as a cohesive unit and the results were evident

With both Medan Lei and Tendulkar receiving a lot of flak in the wake of some bad performances the Sahara Cup was a southing experience

The Indian supporters had certainly a lot to cheer about, but even the most optimistic of them would not have dreamt of a 4-1 drubbing





They angelized him and then crucilled him. Agheruddin just kept shot and let his performances on the field do the talking. These days he's making his critics out humble pie

The eagle has landed.
Debashish Mohanty does his patented jig after he sends ljaz Ahmed (seen in the background) packing





Shahid Afridi is one abultient cricketer, and here he expresses his facilings to Moin Khan who moments ago sent an Indian cricketer back to the pavilion

The Kingfisher band a la the West Indies. They were doubly rewarded as both their endorsees Jadeja and Saurav in particular had an outstanding series





LOSING CONT

INZAMAM-UL-HAQ, by having a brawl with a fan, jeopardised the always terrelations between India and Pakistan

HEN Geoff Boycott said, in his typical Yorkshire accent, "I know he is a damn good batsman but I am not sure how good a boxer is Inzamam," it initially seemed all in good fun. But when Inzamam-ul Haq grabbed a bat and jumped into the stands of the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling club, it soon degenerated into a brawl.

For the two bitter rivals, who have not played a Test series on their home

soil since 1989 and, barring the odd one-day game, have generally faced each other on neutral venues like Sharjah, Colombo and Toronto, it was a bad advertisement for Indo-Pak cticket.

Inzamam, of course, had no business to take the law into his own hands, no matter what the provocation from the spectator(s) may have been. By crossing the fence, Inzamam had all but jeopardised the existence of Indo-Pak cricket. International sportspersons have always doubled up as ambassadors of their respective countries, and if the political relations between the two nations are what they are between India and Pakistan, players have to be all the more careful of their behaviour both on and off the pitch.

Inzamam, nicknamed 'The Gentle Giant' by his teammates, has always been a jolly good fellow. There is a laid-back look about him and he wears a perpetual grin on his boyish

PERSPECTIVE



megaphones into the stands, which allowed a spectator to get his 'message' across to the player(s) clearly.

The spectator, in question, Shiv Kumar Thind, has stated that he was only taunting Inzamam about his weight ("I was just calling him a potato."). Much as one would like to believe Thind, the possibility of him having garnished his taunts with a few choice expletives (in Punjabi, of course), cannot be ruled out.

Having failed with the bat in both the games and with his team on the brink of losing the second successive game, the pressure which accompanies an Indo-Pak game perhaps got to Inzamam. Sportspersons are known to behave irrationally in the heat of the moment. Eric Cantona's kung-fu type kick on an abusive fan had sent shock waves through the sporting fraternity.

In the pre-Match Referee era.
Chetan Sharma and Abdul Qadır have

box, did jump to Inzamam's rescue, saying cricketers should not be treated as mere objects of entertainment, but no one was amused. Skipper Rameez Raja was more diplomatic by saying "Inzamam had not acted wisely."

ICC, an impotent body at the best of times, once again, failed to act firmly and decisively. This despite its chief executive David Richards and Match Referee Jackie Hendricks having witnessed the deplorable incident first hand.

By handing down a two-match suspension, the ICC has clearly sent out wrong signals to the players—that they could get away lightly after having violated its Code of Conduct in the worst possible way.

Incidentally, Cantona was banned for a year by FIFA and had to undergo compulsory community service for a certain number of hours. It is ironical that when FIFA is urging France to do away with fences at next year's World Cup venues, cricketers are asking for

ROL

icketing

Shiv Kumar Thind (in black shirt) is also being led away by security men. Was Thind more in the wrong than Inzamam?

lace. In short, he was definitely not a player from the Javed Miandad school of cricket. It was therefore quite a shock when Inzamam, of all people, lost his cool and acted as he did during the second game of the series.

Former players were aghast that the ground officials had allowed

been guilty of similar offences. But, in the age of satellite television, cricketers are under a microscope. Inzamam's bravado, was, in fact, a stupid act which also sealed Pakistan's fate in the series.

Former Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram, who was in the commentary

more protection from the fans.

But then, cricket has never been a well-administered game anyway. It is still calling itself a gentleman's game. Only, all the gentlemen have long since disappearted from the scene.

Sumit Mukherjee



Sordid Saga

DERHAPS you have not missed anything that is responsible for the sorry state of affairs of sports in this country.

(Sportsworld, August, '97). But have you ever wondered why there are more individual champions than 'teams'? For example, we have the Padukones, the Paes, the Bhupathis, and the Ferreiras excelling in their respective disciplines interntionally.

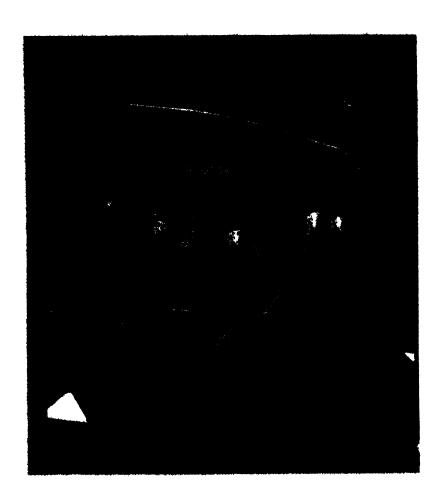
But as a team, Indian cricket failed miserably despite having a Gavaskar in the eleven. Why? Is it because our national character shows it's true colours through team games? Is it not a fact that corruption and complacency has crept—into the 'teams' just like that of our society? Reams of paper has already been wasted analysing this trend but the solution still eludes us.

Maybe, for a start, let's hope there are more people like Prakash Padukone to take on the 'bull' by the horn?

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack

READERS' FORUM

READERS are invited to send contributions to the Reader's Forum page: All submissions should be typed neatly on a white foolscap paper, accompanied by a passport size colour photograph. The articles should be not more than 600 words long and should deal with interesting issues concerning sport



Inhuman

In his article 'Mike The Man Eater', (Sportsworld, August, '97), Suprakash Ghoshal has tried to prove wrong that "boxing is a beastly sport" by arguing that Mike Tyson is an exception rather than a rule. But the reality is that of all the sports played in the world today, boxing is the most violent and inhuman.

it has already claimed many lives and made many physically and mentally handicapped. What better example is there than the sight of Muhammad Ali to prove how dangerous the effects of boxing can be.

A IQUBAL. Rourkela

For Self Esteem

THIS is in reference to the article in the August issue of Sportsworld on Mike Tyson. It has to be understood that boxing is simply classified as a 'sport' by a civilised society to satisfy the primitive instincts of human beings who like to watch the two batter each other to pulp.

During training, the primitive instincts of the boxers are so conditioned and shaped that they are not only fighting for medals or money but for the sake of self esteem. If the instincts shown are beyond the rules prescribed, then no doubt it is a foul thing but that does not justify taking away the license of the erring boxer.

DR DEEPAK RAO, Mumbai

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

PHOTOGRAPHS AFP



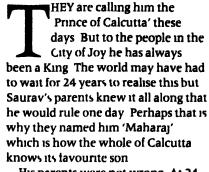
(Right):

The Russian synchronised swimming team performs during the team finals of the European swimming championships which was held at Sevilla in Spain. They ended up winning the gold medal

(Below):

the braunes a biker like Michaela Strassmair and you went riding in the Brauneck mountains in Baveria, chances are that you will be looked at inquisitively by a Haflinger horse who seems to be saying, what with the attire (or lack of it) and all, "what are you doing up here Maam?"





His parents were not wrong At 24, Saurav has shown that he is ready to rule the stage of international cricket Despite being a team game, history is

BY SUMIT MURHERBEE

replete with incidents when one individual has dominated a particular series either with the bat or the ball, or both, so as to leave a personal mark on it

There was the Don Bradman era, for example—much before the present crop of cricketers were born. Then there was Sunil Gavaskar in the Caribbean in 1971 creating records and history with his straight bat. It required the murderous blade of Zaheer Abbas to virtually put an end to one of the most glorious chapters in international cricket, the famous Indian spin quartet was not the same again after the mauling it received in Pakistan in 1978.

Brian Lara turned 1994 into somewhat of a personal celebration by scripting that epic 375 versus England Aravinda De Silva and Sanath Jayasuriya, with their combined brilliance, has just shown the world what Sri Lankan cricket is all about

EADY

SAURAN GANGUTY has come of ad

Yet, no man in the history of the game, has turned matches quite so consistently with bat and ball to emerge Man of the Match in four successive games. For Saurav, it was perhaps the fulfilment of an ultimate dream.

To do well for your country is the ambition of every cricketer. Indian players are no different. Only, for them, to make a mark against Pakistan is a big bonus. Saurav not only cornered personal glory but also helped India humiliate their arch-rivals in an unprecedented run which saw them go 4-0 up in the five-match Sahara Cup before Pakistan just about pulled one back.

If Lord's saw the re-birth of Saurav in 1996 after being all but lost following his disastrous trip Down Under in 1991-92, Toronto was witness to the blossoming of Saurav as an allrounder. His ability with the bat was never in doubt. It was just a question of getting his mind over, matter. So, when he stunned the Englishmen with successive hundreds, the doubting Thomases had their answers.

What pleased the connoisseurs was that he was not beaten outside the off-stump even once by the English seamers during one of the wettest summers. They marvelled at the effortless ease with which he found the gaps on the off side and the copybook cover drive, both off the front as well as the backfoot, which were played to perfection.

It was indeed ironical that he was picked for the England tour as a fifth medium pacer, for, he is primarily a batsman who can bowl. In fact, he has always been a trifle under-rated as a



bowler. Those who have seen him beat the outside edge even on the dullest of afternoons at the Eden Gardens will testify to his ability to move even the old ball.

His stock ball is the one which leaves the right-hander, who is often baffled by the away movement Saurav is able to generate from his predominantly chest-on action. The best thing about him is that he always bowls well within himself. A clever variation of pace with almost no change in action has now quickly improved his strike-rate.

Salim Malik will testify to this. The most experienced Pakistan player—second only to Allan Border in terms of one-day appearances—became a sort of bunny to Saurav in the Sahara series after falling to the latter four games in a row.



REVEALING FIGURES

TEST MATCHES (Debut vs. England at Lord's)

	M	lan	No	Runs -	Avge	HS	C	F	Ct	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Best
1996 (in Eng) \$t	2	3 '	• "	315	105.00	136	2 .	•	•	227	125	6	20.83	3-71
1996-97 (v Aust)	l	2	1	87	87.00	66	-	1	-	, ·	-	•	•	-
1996-97 (v SA)	2	4	•	86	21.50	41	-	-	-	18	10	0	-	-
1996-97 (in SA)	3	6		202	33,66	73	•	2	•	.216	85	3	28.33	2-36
1996-97 (in WI)	4	4	•	78	19.50	42	-	-	2 `	120	59	1	59.00	1-3
1996-98 (in SL)	2	3,	•	192	64.00	147	1	•	ŧ	96	94	3	31.33	2-53
	14	22	1	960	45.71	147	3	3 .	3	677	373	13	28.69	3-71

ONE-DAY MATCHES (Debut vs., West Indies at Brisbane, '91- '92)

			M.		A			-	ο.	0-4-	Dian	Milda	A	
	M	inn	No	Runs	Avge	HS	U	. T	Ct	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Best
1991-92 (in Aus)	1	i	•"	3	3.00	3	•	•	•	-	4 7	٠ -	· •	٠ ـ
1996 (in Eng)	1 .	1	-	46	46.00	46	•	-	1	12	14	0	•'	•
1996-97 (in SL)	3	3	4	111	37.00	; 59	•	1	• 1	30	34	0	• •	•
1996-97 (in Canada)	3	2	1	23	23.00	12	•	•	1	•	•	•	•	•
1996-97 (in Titan Cup)	3	3	-	89	29.67	54	-	1	1.	12	11	Q	• •	• ,
1996-97 (in SL)	8	. 8	÷,	227	28.37	83		i	1'	· 12	11	0	, •	
1996-97 (in Zim)	1	1.	• '	2	2.00	. 2	٠,	, • ' · ,	. 🕌	. 12	10	0	•	
1996-97 (in WI)	3	、3	1	122	61.00	79	أيرابع	1,	1	72	52	0	' 🖦	ي اينه ا
1996-97 (Ind. Cup)	3.	3	• •	. 95	31.66	62	•	1	2	. ′ •'	} ≠ ,	•	•	• ` `
1997-98 (Asia Cup)	4:	3	1.	118	59.00	73*		· 1630	· 2 ·	84	69	1	69.00	1-26
1997-98 (in SL)	4	4	Q	175	43.75	113	1	•	•	. 18	19	΄.Ο	•	.
1997-97 (in Canada)	6	5	1	222	55.55	96	•	2	3	293	160	15	10.66	5-16
	40	37	4	1233	37.36	113	1	8	12	545	380	16	23.75	5-16

Compiled by Rayi Kart Srivastavi

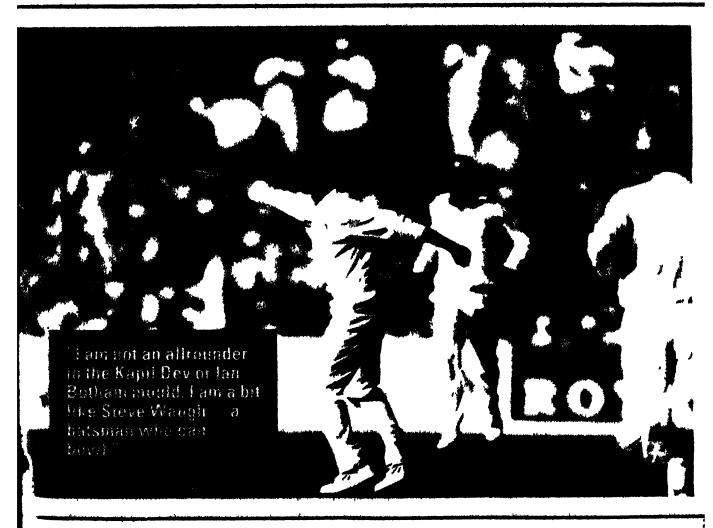
COVERSTORY





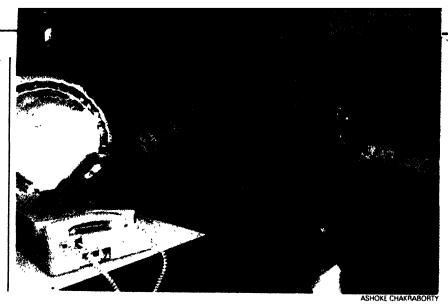
Saurav lulled Malik into playing early to a slower one in Game II and gobbled up the return catch. In Game III, which was abandoned first time around, Ganguly beat Malik by the movement to castle him. In the replayed match, Malik again failed to read the slower one from Saurav and popped up his on-drive to Sachin at mid-on. And in Game IV, Malik was deceived by the outswing and was caught at cover by Robin Singh as he shaped to drive Saurav through the off-side.

But out of the 15 wickets he claimed, the one which gave him the most satisfaction was that of Pakistan skipper Rameez Raja in the final game. Knowing Raja's penchant for the flick, Saurav requested Sachin to take away a fielder from the off-side and post him at square-leg. Then he



came in and delivered an out-swinger which pitched middle and off and moved just enough to go through Raja's bat and pad and hit the off-stump as he tried to turn it off his legs.

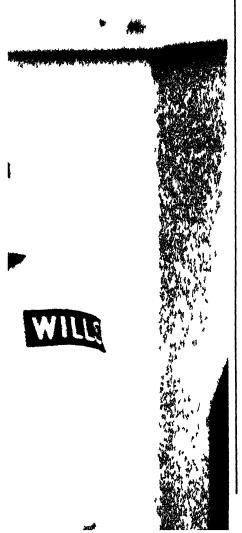
The manner of these dismissals also showed that his razor-sharp cricketing brain was ticking away as he ran in to bowl, trying to think batsmen out. Saurav, however, refuses to read too much into his bowling. "Primarily I am a batsman who can bowl a bit. My first job is to get runs for the team," he said on his return to Calcutta.

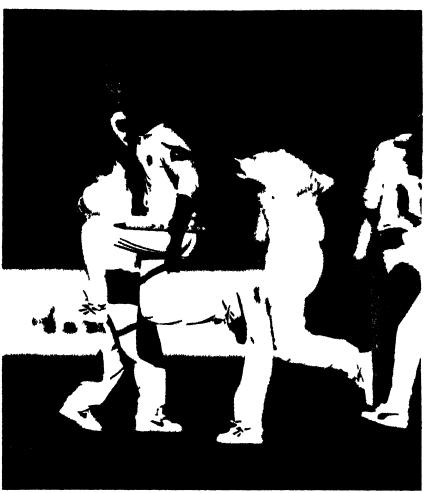




Saurav, in fact, rates his two knocks of 75 not out and 96 in the last two games higher than even his five-wicket haul in the replayed third game "The wickets in Toronto were extremely helpful for pace bowling The batsmen had to struggle all along so I would rate the 222 runs I scored higher in terms of merit than my bowling feats," Saurav added

No matter how well be batted or bowled Saurav feels it is too early to categorise him as a full-fledged allrounder "Look, I am not an allrounder in the Kapil Dev or Ian Botham mould I am a bit like Steve





An ecstatic Sauray celebrates with teammates after clinching the series 4-1. The wicket in his hand is one memento he is not going to give away in a hurry

Waugh —a batsman who can bowl he says

However the fact remains that Sachin having overcome his reluctance to bowl him more has discovered a secret weapon which can only give India's attack a more balanced look

Another impressive aspect of Sauray's cricket was the distinct improvement in his fielding and running between the wickets. Even after a long spell, he was seen diving around the third mar, boundary saving runs for his team, and while batting he showed a new found keenness for rotating the strike—an area where he really needed improvement.

It only shows he is using his young head on his shoulders well. Playing at the highest level is all about learning quickly. I am aware of my

drawbacks and I am constantly working on them—says Saurav striking a pragmatic note

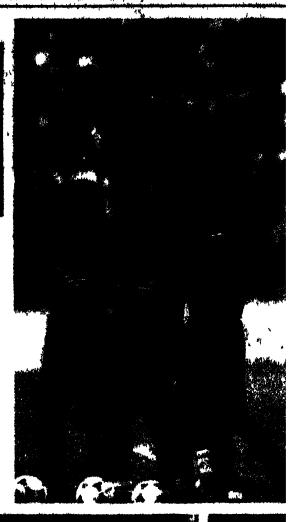
After his triumphant return from England last year he seemed to have been swayed a bit by all the media hype surrounding his successive centuries at I ord's and Trent Bridge But post Toionto Saurav has shown that he can handle fame with a maturity which is far be yond his years

It is a maturity which has convinced someone like Arun Lal that Saurav is excellent material for captaincy. His cool and collected approach makes him an extra special star. Indeed Saurav has all the makings of a future India captain. Lal observed recently

Only time will tell whether the Prince of Calcutta assumes the throne of Indian cricket, but for the time being Saurav is already focused on his next innings.

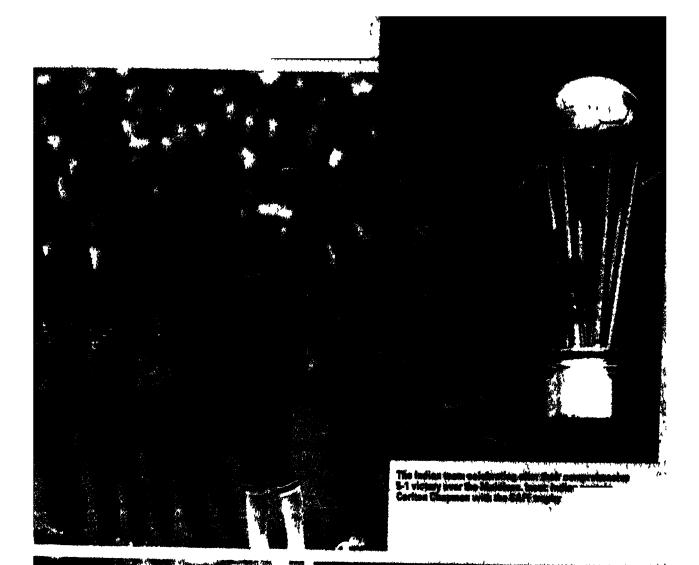
NO SWEAT

India were easy winners at the SAFF tournament held last month at the Dasarath Stadium at Kathmandu



This is the sequence of Baichung Shutle scoring India's second goal in the final against the Moldives...and his jubilation know no bounds. Later, he was declared the Mon of the Match













Top: The SAFF tournament finalists, India and the Moldives, observe a one-minute allence in honour of Mother Toresa

Middle: Nepelese supporters sporting India colours, watch the proceedings of the India-Pakistan match

Below: A cheerful Baschung Bhutia holds aloft the Man of the Match award presented by Crown Prince Dipendra Bahadur (to Bhutia's left)

Right below. The poster belied all expectations when the host team performed shabbily against Pakistan and when Nepal lost, the supporters took their wrath out on a security personnel (inset) who started to bleed profusely.

Top right: The Indian Terminaters I. W. Vijayan, who scored six goals in the tournament, received the Highest Scorer award and Shatia, the final's star performer

Top left: Sr: Lanken players proudly sport the stylich Nepsless cap

PHOTOFEATURE











HAT disappointed
Croatians left on Goran
nisevic's car after he lost to
the ded Jason Stoltenberg
in the 1996 Wimbledon
refinals: Notes which
You are never going to
imbledon."

BSOLUTELY the best thinker I ever worked according to coach collettieri: Boris Becker.

THAT Marcelo Rios's former coach, Peter Lundgren, says Rios needs: "A atrist, not a coach."

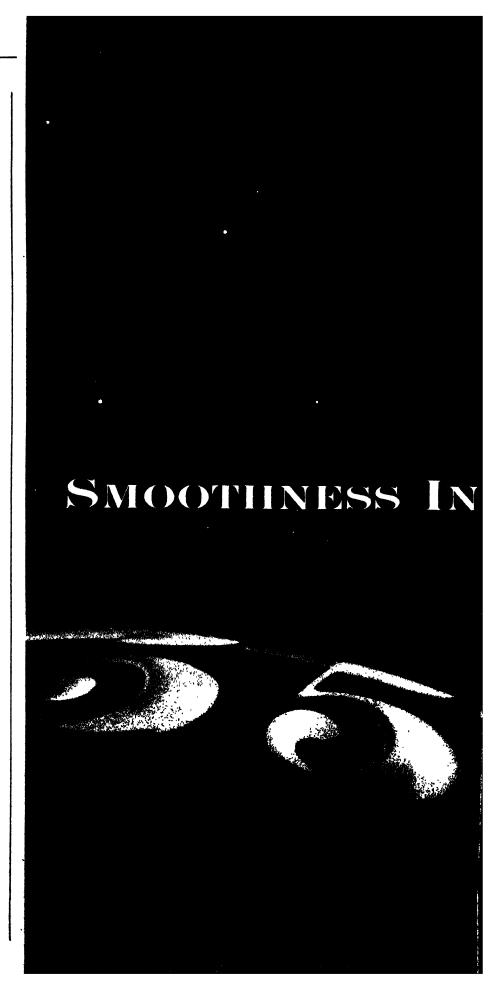
OW 15-year-old Martina lingis trained for the J.S.Open where she ailed the semifinals in singles, doubles and mixed doubles: She took boxing to polish her footwork.

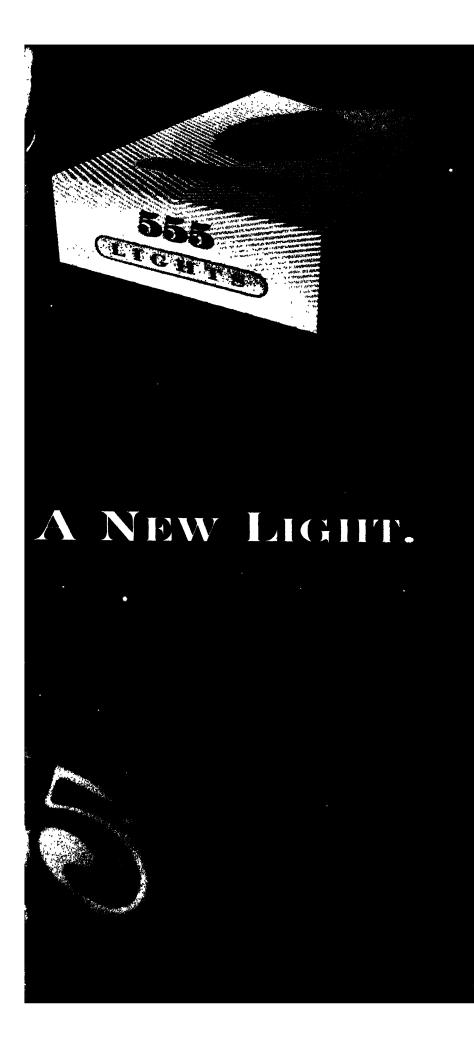
YPICAL attendance at jor wheelchair tennis iments in Europe:

W much time per day
Late COREL WTA TOUR
air rs work on Monica
injured left shoulder
during tournaments: 2 1/2
hours.

ADDRESS of the Richard Krajicek Fan Club: Adrian Hanegraaf, 251 McKillop Street, East Geelong, Victoria 3219, Australia.

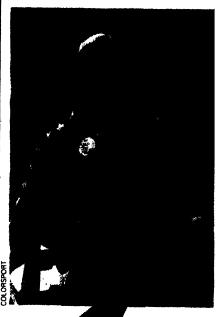
TUMBER of the 22 different winners of the U.S.Open girls' singles event who have later reached the final of the U.S.Open' women's singles event; 0.





HAT reserved Stefan Edberg replied when he was once asked whether he had a personality: "A little one."

NE of the reasons why New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani boycotted the 1996 U.S.Open: To protest the high prices.



PLAYEP orn Borg watch today: Andre Agassh

NUMBER of houses Boris Becker rented for his entourage during the 1995 Wimbledon Championships:

NUMBER of consecutive years that prize money on the women's pro tour has increased: 27.

WHAT Andre Agassi considers his biggest disappointment: "Not proposing to Brooke (Shields) a lot earlier."

Compiled By Paul Fein

PAIN

BY K.R WADHWANEY

NDIA has certainly not been among the strong sporting powers in the world. Nor has this country, with its mammoth population and unlimited natural resources, produced more than a few world renowned sportspersons in various disciplines from athletics and archery to wrestling. But it has certainly thrown up the maximum number of politicians, who use and utilise sports as a fast moving vehicle to improve their lot.

It is rightly claimed that Indian politicians, like catcus, grows in all climes. They prosper while the sports they govern decay. But they could not care less because the Indian public in general and sportspersons in particular are tolerant, forgiving and possess a very short memory.

We might not set any world records in international sport but in one aspect, India holds at least two world records—the maximum number of stadia bearing the names of politicians and the maximum number of politicians controlling, managing and masterminding national sports federations.

Name an important stadium in the country, and it is named after a politician, like the Ambedkar stadium (football - Delhi), Lal Bahadur Shastri (cricket - Hyderabad), Indira Gandhi (indoor - Delhi) and Jawaharlal Nehru (athletics - Delhi). In fact, there are several stadia in the name of Nehru, e.g. Nehru stadiums at Kochi, Chennai, Guwahati and Margao.

None of these renowned and respected politicians had even remotely suggested that the stadia should be named after them. It was the handiwork of the sychopants. It is on record that Nehru summarily rejected Anthony de Mello's offer of naming the



IN THE

stadium, near India Gate, for the inaugural Asian Games in 1951 after his name. Nehru insisted that it should be named as the National Stadium.

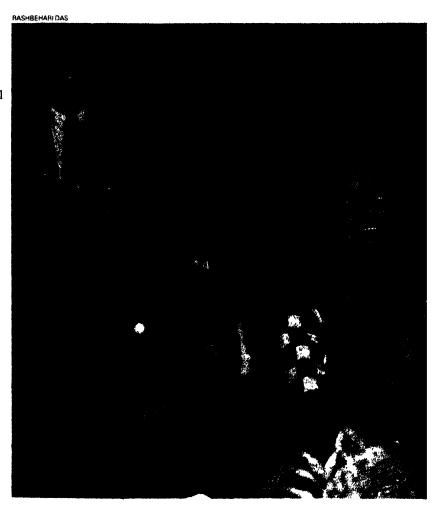
What has been puzzling is why our national stadia has not been named after retired sportspersons of proven calibre and ability. Will heavens fall if the Ambedkar stadium is named after Sailen Manna or Chuni Goswami? Will there be any revolt in Hyderabad if the stadium bears the name of Ghulam Ahmed or Mohd. Azharuddin instead of Lal Bahadur Shastri?

What wrong can be done if the indoor stadium at Delhi is called the Prakash Padukone stadium instead of Indira Gandhi? Similarly, will there be any objection if Nehru (he will, in fact, be happy in heaven) Stadium becomes Milkha Singh or Sriram Singh or the P.T. Usha stadium? If the name of Connaught Place can be changed to Rajiv Chowk, why can't stadia in the names of politicians be changed to that of sportspersons?

The world over, sports is being managed by sportspersons. Why cannot these social-climbing and ill-informed politicians leave Indian sports alone for the good of the country?

Suresh Kalmadi, for example, may have spent more than Rs.50 crores in the name of international meets, nine in number to be precise without spotting, let alone producing, even a solitary near-possible Olympic medal winner. But Sri Lanka, a tiny island with no fanfare or glamour, has already produced a woman athlete, who is not only destined to become the athletic queen among Asian countries but has a good chance to win a medal in the next Olympics.

Not succeeding in spotting or producing a champion athlete may not necessarily be the responsibility of Kalmadi, but his meets, more like gimmicks, have utterly failed to develop



Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, as President of the AIFF, has not really done anything much to transform Indian football an awakening for athletics in the country

The bulk of the funds for these international meets has been provided by the Indian Tobacco Company (FIC). But it is nevertheless an Indian company and our Indian money. Should it be thrown down the drain without any plausible gain?

Kalmadi has been at the helm of affairs of the Amateur Athletics Federation of India (AAFI) for many years. But, surprisingly, he has never made public the income and expenditure involved in staging the nine

ANALYSIS

competitions so far. Most of his detracters describes these meets as mere tamashas.

The AAFI accounts, it is learnt, are maintained at the Nehru Stadium where their office is located. But the international meet accounts are said to be Kalmadi's 'private preserve'. No member, no matter how senior, can question his authority and ask how the money was spent.

In this modern age of open professionalism, there is no longer any plausible reason in not revealing as to who was given how much. Even the expenses incurred in deputising emissaries to get the consents from the internationally famous foreign athletes have not been revealed. It is all done under cover. There is doubt whether even the ITC officialdom is aware as to how its money has been used.

THE Archery Association of India (AAI) has been headed for years by a BJP leader, Vijay Kumar Malhotra. No world renowned archer has surfaced despite his 'tall claims'. Limba Ram has failed to live up to expectations. His deeds have evaporated in the intensely competitive air of the Olympics and other international meets.

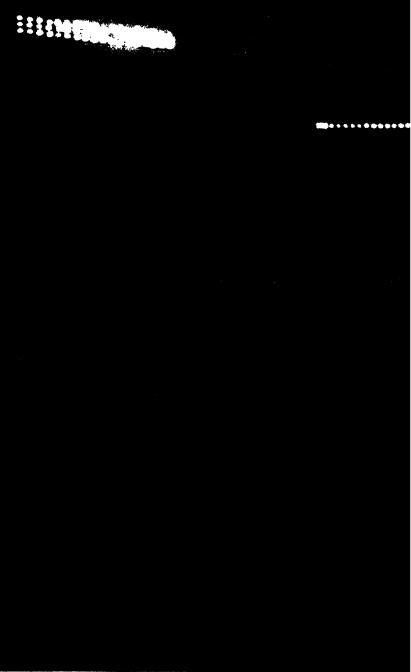
India's dismal performances does not bother Malhotra. He loves publicity. When he fails to find an adequate forum through the BJP, he uses sports as a outlet to get his name in the newspapers.

Since Priya Ranjan Das Munshi's assumption of office of the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Indian football has been passing through a critical phase. The standard has nose-dived to an alarmingly low level. India finds it difficult to get past tiny neighbouring countries. Can there be a greater disgrace than this?

K. Ziauddin had a very long and enduring innings in the AIFF. He might not have done enough for the game in the country. But if the comparison between Ziauddin and Das Munshi is dispassionately made, the former would emerge as an angel, as compared to the wily politician Das Munshi.

Jagdish Tytler has been at the helm of the Judo Federation of India (JFI). In this federation, there is no sign of an Asian champion being produced. This may not be the cause for complaint. But what is cause for concern is nothing is being done to popularise judo in the country.

While nothing tangible is being done on the domestic circuit, international meets in the

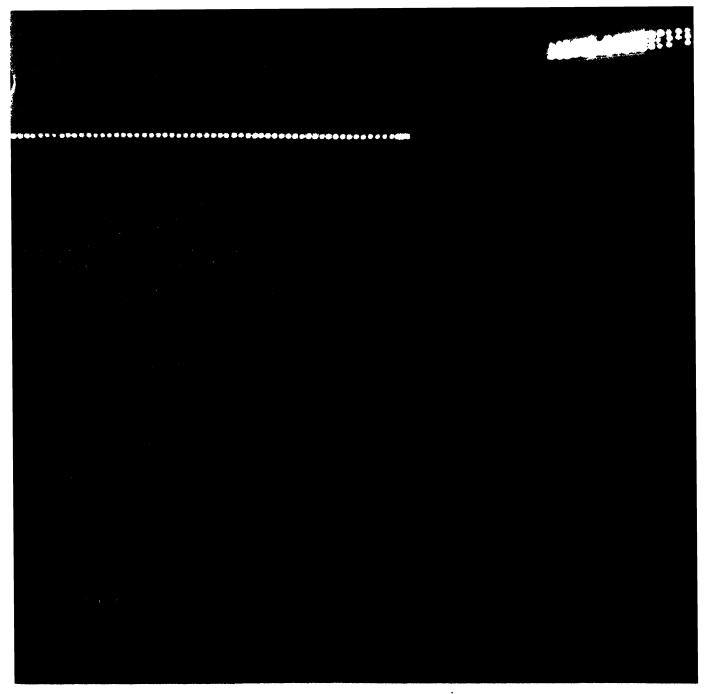


ASHOKE CHAK (ABORTY

Innumerable stadiums have been named after Jawaharlal Nehru. This picture is of the Nehru Stadium in Chennai name of politicians are staged. Lavish get-togethers are organised. Lofty promises are made amidst a lot of pomp and show. But that is about all. While the officials make hay, judokas have to rough it out.

V.C. Shukla, another heavy-weight, gained a solitary vote victory over Raj Bhargava, who was then a Government of India bureaucrat, and became the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). That was a few years ago.

Shukla is a president only for name's sake. The TTFl is in the firm grip of Moolchand Chouhan (Rajasthan) who has a finger in every pie. He undertakes trips abroad as if he is



travelling from Ajmer to Delhi!

Chouhan imports bats, rubbers and sponges. All this is done in the name of the players. But there are innumerable instances of needy and unknown players not receiving the material.

Madhav Rao Scindia may now be enjoying playing a round of golf at the nearby Air Force Club. But he loves cricket intensely. He likes cricketers and he goes out of his way to help them, whenever there has been any need.

Scindia is, however, a typical politician, who believes in nursing his home constituency. As a president of the INDCOM, he chose Gwalior for the Wills World Cup

What has been puzzling is why our national stadia has not been named after retired sportspersons of proven calibre and ability

instead of Indore, which was once the headquarters of cricket in Madhya Pradesh. Indore has produced a galaxy of stars, like C.K. Nayudu, Mushtaq Ali, C.S. Nayudu, Hiralal Gaekwad, Chandu Sarvate, Rangnekar, M.M.Jagdale, etc. In sharp contrast, Gwalior has made no contribution at all. But despite that, the World Cup match went to Gwalior.

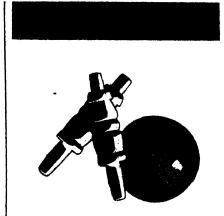
There are many ministers, MPs, MLAs and other politicians on the panel of sports administration at the state and the district level. While politicians use sports as a perfect launching pad, sports continue to suffer. It is clear that nobody cares for our motherland.

THE 300 CLUB

A statistical look at the 14 Test cricketers who have scored triple centuries in Test cricket

HE first-ever Test match was played in 1876-77 at Melbourne between Australia and England. At the end of the Test series between Sri Lanka and India (1997), 1,375 Test matches have been played between nine countries. Between 1876 and 1997, there are only 14 instances of a batsman scoring more than 300 runs in an innings.

The latest candidate to join this list is Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya, who scored a magnificent 340 in the only innings against India at Colombo on 6-8-1997.



Here is a list of the (14) triple centuries set so far.

1. A. Sandham's 325 in 1929-30:

The first-ever triple century in Test cricket.

The highest individual score in Test cricket.

By scoring another 50 in the second innings, he established a new world record of scoring 375 runs in a Test.

2. Don Bradman's 334 in 1930:

A new world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket. He scored a triple century at the youngest age of 21 years and 318 days

S	I. N	o Bətsman & Country	Runs	Minutes	4's	6's	Batting Number
	1)	An andham (England)	325	600	28	į	2
,	2)	Don Bradman (Australia)	334	383	46	, -	3
	3)	Walter ham and (basend)	336*	318	34	10	3
, ¥	4)	Don Bradmán (Australia)	304	430	43	2	5
,	5)	Len Hutto	364	797	35	•	1
	6)	Hanif Michammad (Pakistan)	337	97Ò	26	· ·	
	7)	Gary Section (cs)	365*	614	38	-	3
	8)	Bobby Simpson (Australia)	311	762	23	; 1 .	2
	9)	John Ed	310*	532	52	5 .	1
1	Q) [']	Bob Cowper (Australia)	307	727	20	. •	40
1	1)	Lawren owe (West Indies)	302	612	36	l	2
y 1	2)	Graham Gooch (England)	333	633	43	3.	
	3)	Buan Lara est Indies)	375	766	45	-	3
. B 1	4)	Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)	340	799	36	2	



in Test cricket.

He scored 309 runs on the first day of the Test (still a world record). He completed a double century in only 214 minutes and a triple century in 336 minutes—both in record time.

3. Walter Hammond's 336* in 1932-33:

A new world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket. He scored the fastest triple century in only 287 minutes (still a world record).

He slammed three consecutive sixes off Newman and a total of 10 sixes to create a world record which was broken by Wasim Akram of Pakistan at Sheikhpura against Zimbabwe.

4. Don Bradman's 304 in 1934:

The only batsman in the world to score two triple centuries in Test cricket.

This was his consecutive second triple century at Leeds.

5. Len Hutton's 364 in 1938:

llnd innings score	Versus	Venue	Series	Test No.	Total score	Result
50	West Indies	Kingston	1929-30	193	849	Draw
	England	Leeds	1930	196	566	Draw
-	New Zealand	Auckland	1932-33	226	8/7 Decl.)	Draw
\	England	Leeds	1934	236	584	Draw
-	Australia	The Oval	1938	266	See The Control	England won
17	West Indies	Bridge town	1957-58	449	657/8 (Decl.)	Draw
-	Pakistan	Kingston	1957-58	451	13 (3/1)	West Indies won
4*.	England	Manchester	1964	564	656/8 (Decl.)	Draw
-	New Zealand	Leeds	1965	593	-5 (D) (D)	England won
	England	Melbourne	1965-66	601	543/8 (Decl.)	Draw .
	England	Bridgetown	1973-74	733	AN COLUMN	Draw
123	India "	Lord's	1990	1149	653/4 (Decl.)	England won
-	England	Antigua	1993-94	1252	335 (Detl.)	Draw
1400 m	India	Celogabo	1997	1374	952/6 (Decl.)	#. Draw



Sanath Jayasuriya is the latest entrant to the 300 Club

A new world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket. He was at the crease for 797 minutes. England won this Test by an innings and 579 runs.

6. Hanif Mohammad's 337 in 1957 in 1957-58:

He stayed at the wicket for 970 minutes —which is a world record. He was associated in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th wicket century partnerships (still a world record).

He is the only player in Test cricket to score a triple century in the second innings of a Test.

Pakistan has recorded the highest total after following-on.

The difference of runs between the two innings of Pakistan (551 runs) is a new record.

7. Gary Sobers' 365* in 1957-58:

This was his first century in Tests. This was a new world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket. Conrad Hunte and he were associated in a record 446 runs partnership for the second wicket.

He scored a triple century at the

youngest age of 21 years and 8 months.

8. Bob Simpson's 311 (1964):

This was his first-ever century in his Test career.

Highest individual score as a captain in Test cricket.

9. John Edrich's 310* in 1965:

He was on the ground for all five days of the Test.

He scored the maximum (52) fours in an innings to create a world record.

10. Bob Cowper's 307 in 1965-66:

Highest individual score on Australian soil.

11. Lawrence Rowe's 302 in 1973-74:

A total of 99 no-balls were bowled in this Test by rival teams.

12. Graham Gooch's 333 in 1990:

A new record for the highest individual score as a captain in Test cricket.

He is the only batsman in Test cricket to score a triple century followed by a century in the second innings.

He scored 456 runs in the two innings of this Test to surpass Greg Chappell's world record of 380 runs in a Test. With 123 in the second innings, he has scored five centuries at the Mecca of cricket, Lord's.

He is the only batsman in the world to score a triple century in Test cricket after bagging a 'pair' on his Test debut.

13. Brian Lara's 375 in 1993-94:

He is the sixth batsman in Test cricket to score a triple century without hitting a six.

A new world record for the highest individual score in Test cricket.

14. Sanath Jayasuriya's 340 in 1997:

He is the first Sri Lankan player to hit a triple century in Test cricket. He added 576 runs for the second wicket with Roshan Mahanama (225) to create a world record for the highest-ever partnership for any wicket.

He and Mahanama batted for more than two full days of play without being separated to equal the Worrell-Sobers' record of 1959-60. * means not out.

IVORY



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

ASHWINI NACHAPPA

Meet the former star athlete who has given up the glitz and the glamour to settle down into a comfortable life with her husband and daughter

BY AISHWARYA LAKSHMI

day in the life of Ashwini Nachappa these days is similar to that of any ordinary working woman's. As the Assistant Manager in Vijaya Bank looking after publicity, Ashwini keeps herself busy throughout the day before settling down to a homely evening with husband Datha Karaumbiah and two-year-old daughter Anisha.

athletic arena --- which witnessed her in the Open Nationals and the International Permit Meet, besides bagging a silver in the Asian Track & Field Meet in New Delhi --- Ashwini looks relaxed and is a picture of tranquility these days.

"It's great." That was what Ashwini. replied when I asked her about her married life and the experience of

After years of toiling for glory in the beating the legendary P.T. Usha twice,

With her daughter. Both are holding the Arjuna Award which she won in 1988







Pictured in her Vijaya Bank office where she is an Assistant Manager in charge of publicity

being a mother. Since that Gandhi Jayanthi day when she tied the nuptial knot to Datha three years ago, Ashwini has now become more attached to family life. "It's even more great now with young Anisha around, who is like a rowdy keeping everyone in the family on their toes," the proud mother said.

Ashwini's first sight of Datha happened in her Langford Town house, courtesy Datha's cousin and former hockey international M.M.Somayya. Datha is better known as 'Monappa Jr.' in hockey circles. He was a part of the junior Indian team that went to Germany in the early 80s. Datha was also a regular member of the Indian Universities and Indian Airlines teams. But now he Datha is often seen on the golf course.



"We only have politicians and bureaucrats ruling almost all the sport in our country. This scenario should change. Sporting people should govern our sport."



is totally out of touch with the game. He does not even want to read about hockey "What's there to read?" he queries, reflecting on the state of the game. Since becoming a member of the Karnataka Golf Association,

Shifting to another topic, I asked him how he left when he proposed marriage to an international star athlete like Ashwini Nachappa?

"There was no ecstasy on that count. Like others, I was also proud of her achievements. But at the time of marriage, I felt that I am just getting married to a Coorgi girl," said the 35-year-old vice-president of Sagar Automobiles, authorised dealers of Maruti in Bangalore, Before that, he was in the timber business.

Ashwim's normal day starts at around 6.30 a.m. She does household work till about 8.30 a.m. That leaves her about 30-45 minutes to get ready and leave for her bank which starts at 9.30.

After a hectic day's work in the office, where she is available till 4.30 in the evening, Ashwini drives down in a Maruti to the cozy environs of her Koramangala home. Then it's time for

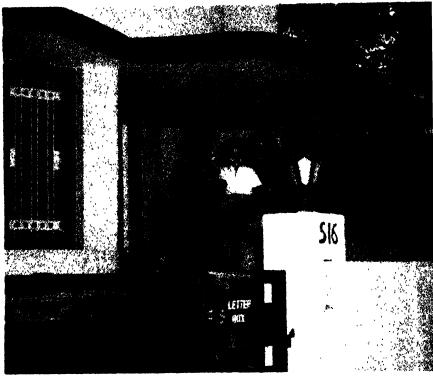


Cutting vegetables in her classy kitchen.
Undoubtedly, the lifestyle is comfortable. It is a
far cry from the straitened circumstances that
former internationals have lived in, after their
retirement

a little bit of running/jogging at the St.John's ground, a few metres away from her home. "My daughter loves jogging," said Ashwini. She spends an hour and a half at the ground. Soon, her husband Datha comes to pick up 'papa's girl' and Ashwini.

"Before getting back to my young one's needs. I do a bit of weight training in the small gym that I have in the house, and after that, time permitting, I will watch some television, read some books or magazines. Usually I prefer to retire to

With husband Dathe and daughter Anisha. Her husband is a former hockey international player while she has been an Asian level runner. With the mixture of all these genes, daughter Anisha could become a champion sportswoman





Once an athlete, always an athlete. Physical fitness is an important part of Ashwini's daily life. Here she works out in a small gym apparatus set up in the house itself

bed early. That's my normal day's life," explained Ashwini.

But the weekends are different. Ashwini goes out for dinner, normally to some friend's house, with her hubby and kid and during holidays, they visit her husband's estate in Coorg.

Ashwini looked dejected when I asked her about the current Indian athletic scene. "We've had a Milkha Singh and that's all. We've not improved at all," she lamented. She came out strongly against the administrators of the game for the sorry state of affairs. "We only have politicians and bureaucrats ruling almost all the sport associations in our country. This scenario should change. Sporting people should govern our sport," opined the 1988 Arjuna awardee.

Comparing the Indian standards with that of Sri Lanka's, especially after Susanthika Jayasinghe won a 200m silver at the World Athletics Championships at Athens, Ashwini felt the need for the involvement of the corporate sector in Indian athletics.

"It's high time the corporate sector took over the sport in the country. To build a strong team, the corporate minds should enter the sport as we lack a concept of management," she suggested.

After bidding adieu to athletics, Ashwini did have a successful stint in films. Her very first film in Telugu, titled 'Ashwini', was a big box office hit and was also dubbed into Tamil and Hindi. After that, she acted in four more films—'Aadarsham', 'Inspector Ashwini', 'Aarambham' and 'Miss 420'—all Telugu films which were later dubbed into Tamil. After that, she decided to put an end to her career in the movies.

"It was a good experience," recalled Ashwini, "but it was a little tiring too. There were a lot of offers after that, but then I decided to devote full time to my daughter and the family."

The U.S.Open saw the inauguration of a new stadium and the crowning of a new unexpected men's champion

PHOTOGRAPHS AFP

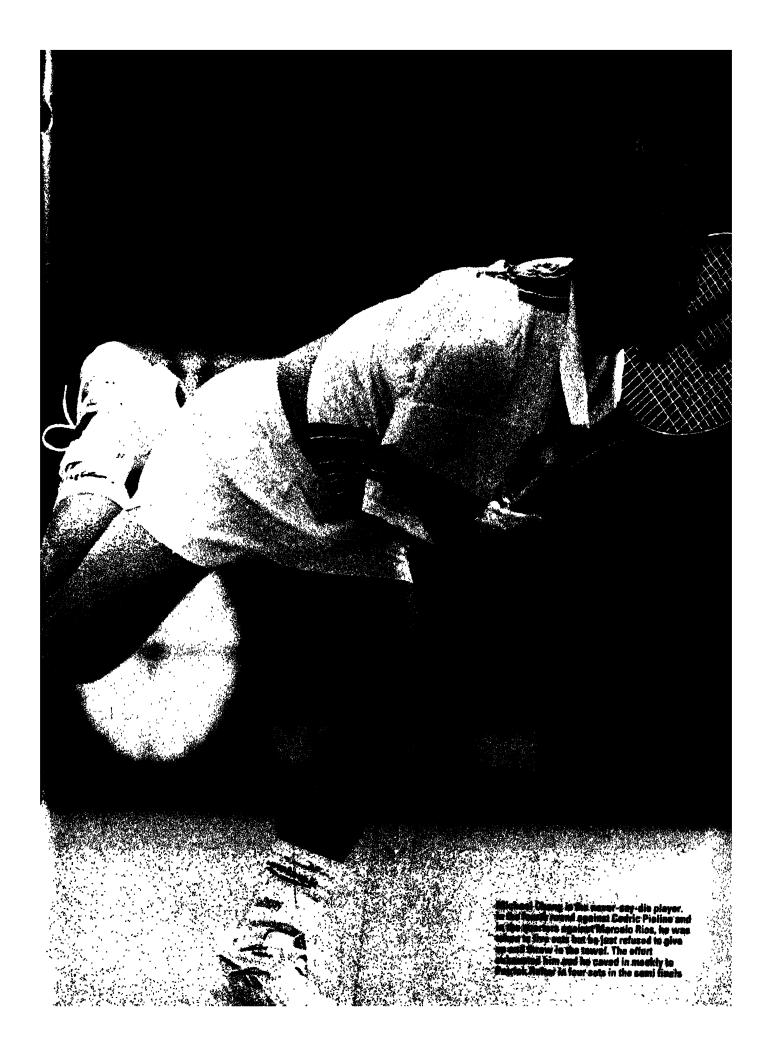


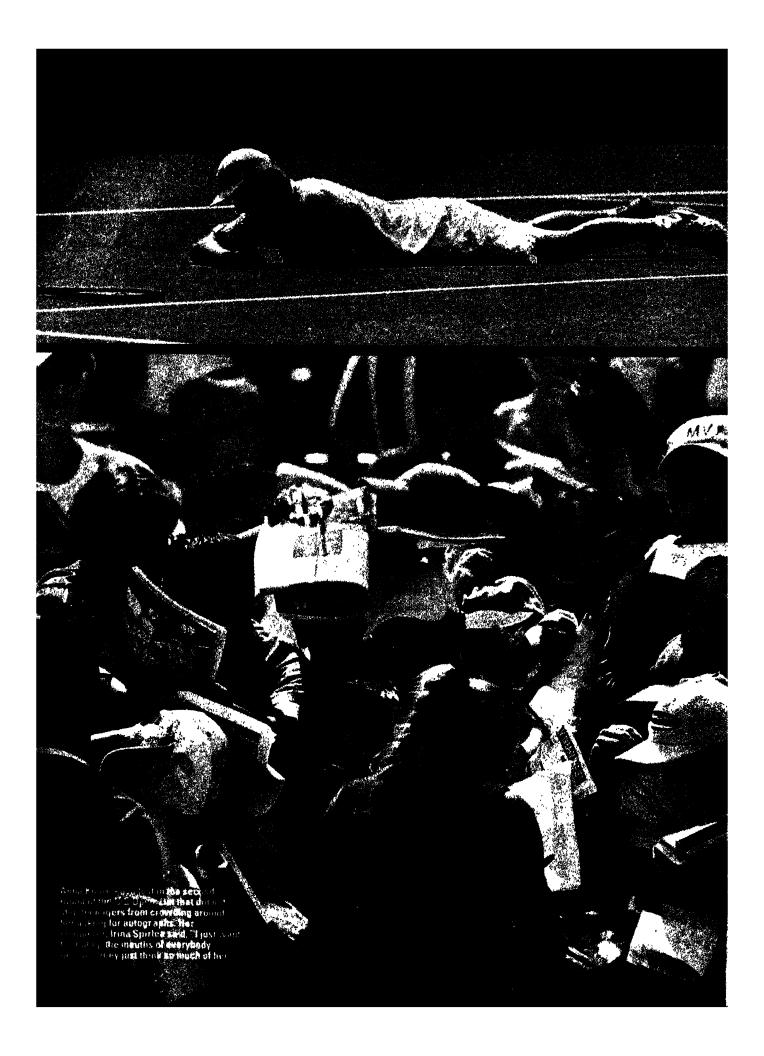




Martina Hingis is ecstatic after she wins the last point in the final against Venus Williams. She won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-4. She has won three Slams this year and all the signs are there that she is going to be a great champion, provided she doesn't burn out or have a career-threatening injury









THE WORLD OF BOOKS

TITLE: KAYAKING & CANOEING IN INDIA AUTHOR: AVINASH C. KOHLI PUBLISHER: ALKA PAPERBACKS PAGES: 55 PRICE: Rs.100.00

THIS slim, informative and elegantly produced book by water sports aficianado Avinash Kohli shows how fledgling sports like kayaking and canoeing have developed in India as an adjunct of tourism. The author informs us that this sport is the fastest growing Olympic discipline in the world.

Factual evidence reveals the rapidly growing popularity of this sport. In the centennial Atlanta Olympics, 59 countries participated in this discipline while the old system of rowing attracted only 29 teams. Currently more than 80 countries are members of the International Canoe Federation.

The author has tackled his subject effectively. The book is appealing to both the average reader and the avid fan of water sports. For instance in the second chapter, Avinash Kohli shows the distinction between a canoe and a kayak. "A canoe is an open boat which is normally paddled with a kneeling position and is always propelled by a single-blade paddle." In contrast, a kayak is a "light decked craft paddled from a seating position and propelled with a double-blade paddle."

The historical perspective is also provided of these two boats. Canoe developed from the name of a boat used by the North American Indians to ferry their cargo and food across the

rivers. The kayak has its origin amongst the snow-bound eskimos. This craft was used by the eskimos for seal and whale hunting.

Tracing the recent history of this water sport, Mr Kohli shows that even in the USA and Europe kayaking and canoeing started as a recreational tourist sport. The author gives detailed information about how this

In a racy narrative, the author shows that kayaking and canoeing first became competitive sports at the 1987 National Games in Kerala. They were held at Alleppey. The Sports Authority of India, (SAI), under their Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme, launched kayaking and canoeing sports centres in Alleppey and Port Blair. SAI hired an erstwhile Soviet expert S. Makarenko, who hails from Belarus to impart training. Special equipment was purchased from a firm in the United Kingdom.

In a later chapter, the author shows how kayaking and canoeing centres have spread all over India, from Andhra Pradesh to Assam. He also lauds the role of the Indian Army, Navy and the SAI in popularising this sport. People from riverine areas like Kerala have taken to this sport with



Mr.V.C.Shukla, (left), former IOA President releasing the book on kayaking and canceling

sport became so popular in India.

It will be interesting to note that the author himself participated in the first-ever Indo-US white water expedition launched on the Upper Ganga from above Uttarkashi to Rishikesh way back in 1976. He considers this an epoch-making event as it got the ordinary people and important government officials interested in these water sports. Next, there were a series of expeditions on kayaks and canoes till 1985. That same year the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association (IKCA) was formed. These water sports are also popular in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Kerala and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

relish and India won a medal in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad in kayaking. Jessymol, Minimol, Ranvir Singh and others have regularly won medals from India in Asian meets.

The latter half of the book gets very technical, with information on how canoes and kayaks are manufactured. This makes the book slightly over technical. The only drawback in this pioneering work is that there is not much information on the outstanding kayaking and canoeing personnel who have won laurels for the country in a sport in which the national body was formed and recognised just about a decade ago.

Novy Kapadia

READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

Where was
• Chuni Goswami
born?

Who once remarked, "Curtly Ambrose can make all the difference when only 60% fit"?

3 "I cannot bowl and I cannot bat. The only

cure is rest." Whose remark is this?

Which Pakistani
bowler once took
eight wickets against
Australia conceding just
one run?

Which international cricketer retired saying, "I'm out of comebacks. I've had four before and came back stronger, but this time the desire is not there."?

6. on this planet and 1 am consistent." Who am I?

7. When was the ranking system introduced in tennis?



Answer to Question No.3

Which Portuguese
• footballer was
considered to be a fit
successor to the legendary
Pele?

"He's a boy amongst men, yet he's making the men look like boys." Who said these words and who was he referring to?

10 Which former
Australian cricket
superstar wrote, "I think
Curtly Ambrose is
completely burnt out. His
bowling lacks fire and his
fielding exhibits the same
enthusiasm as a man
walking to the gallows."?

Answer to Question No.5



ANSWERS

- 1. In Kishorgunj village in Mymensingh in Bangladesh.
- 2. Malcolm Marshall, the West Indies coach.
- 3. Wasim Akram.
- 4. Sarfraz Nawaz.
- 5. Craig McDermott.
- 6. Donovan Bailey.
- 7. In 1975.
- 8. Eusebio Silva Ferreira.
- 9. Tom Watson on Tiger Woods.
- 10. Dennis Lillee.

THIS QUIZ HAS BLEN COMPILED BY



ISTIAQUE HUSSIAN, ARUNIMA SAHITYA SANGSAD, 88 HOUSING ESTATE, AMBARKHANA, SYLHET — 3100 BANGLADESH

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.

'ATHLETICS Is My

Says MOSES KIPTANUI, the former world champion and world record holder in the 3000m steeplechase

INTERVIEW BY NOVY EAPADIA

N these days of crass commercialisation, megabucks and liberalisation as the buzz word, even in sport attitudes to motivation have undergone a sea change. In contemporary athletics, it is money which is the motivating factor and values like commitment and national pride are anachronisms. The joke, probably apocryphal about the great pole vaulter, Sergei Bubka was that he only attempted world records when he was promised large sums of money as an incentive.

At the 9th edition of the ITC International Permit Meet in Delhi, it was a refreshing change to come across an athlete like Kenya's Moses Kiptanui, who seems a throwback to an earlier age. He still talks about love of his homeland and commitment to the development of juniors with sincerity and not as a 'media favourable quote'. Kiptanui is quite unique. He was thrice world champion in the gruelling steeplechase, 1991, 1993 and 1995 and got a silver medal at Athens in 1997. At one stage, he held four world long distance records. Yet he remains down to earth and close to his roots. He is probably the only active world-class athlete who spends months every year devoted to training junior athletes of his region. Here are excerpts from the interview:

How often have you visited India? This is my third visit to India. Earlier, I was here for the 1993 Permit Meet and in 1994 at Pune. I really enjoy the

visits to India, as the people here are so friendly, hospitable and the atmosphere at the stadiums is good. I also believe it is my duty as a top class athlete to promote the sport. So I like to visit India where athletics is being actively promoted.

Way back in 1992, you held world records in three different events? Why did you later then specialise in the 3,000 metres steeplechase? Yes, I held world records in the 3,000 metres both indoors and outdoors and the steeplechase. For some time I was also the 5,000 metres record holder. However, I felt that the steeplechase comes most naturally to me. I felt I had the aptitude for this event. My lanky legs are suitable for the water jumps and the hurdles and I have the stamina of a long distance runner. So I concentrated on the 3,000 metres steeplechase and (with a wry smile) I have done quite well.

You are probably the only active athlete who is also involved as a coach? Why did you opt for this dual role?

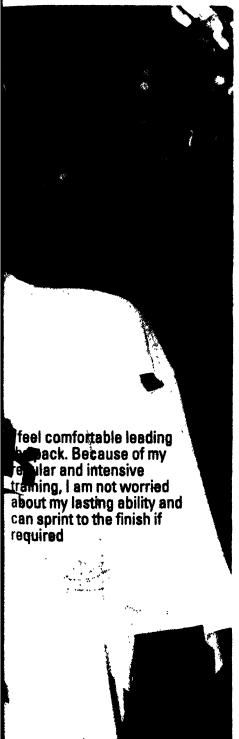
In Kenya, we do not have many coaches, so I decided to start coaching young athletes. The motivation was love for my country and a desire to do something for my region, the Rift Valley. I read books, learnt coaching by watching videos and whatever I learnt I impart to youngsters.

Do you only train long distance runners?

I prefer to train long and middle runners because I can give them tips based on my personal experience as a



Life



runner. However, I train athletes for other events also.

Where do you organise your camp?

Near my house in the Rift Valley. The youngsters stay in a hotel. The expenses are met by Nike. They realise the potential of young runners in Kenya and so since last year they are sponsoring my camp. As a runner I am sponsored by Reebok, but my camp is sponsored by Nike.

How many months in the year do you train?

I train for nearly the whole year. I just have a one month break. Now that the competitive season is over in Europe and the USA, I will return to my home town of Elderet and after a brief rest start my training camp. Athletics is my life.

There are many views about Kenyan domination in middle and long distance running Why do you feel Kenya produces a stream of classy runners?

I would say this is because of the well organised structure of competition in Kenya. From the primary school onwards, we have regular competition. So an athlete with potential is always spotted and there is always a chance to show your worth. Another reason is the tradition of intensive competition and survival of the best. In 1992, I broke the world record for the steeplechase but unfortunately did not make the team for the Olympics. In Kenya, no runner can take his place in the national team for granted. Our system is very competitive and this keeps us on our toes. We just cannot get complacent and rest on our laurels. Also since Kip Keino set the tradition of success, our young runners have no inhibitions when competiting on the world stage. The many successful Kenyan runners are role models for our youngsters and thus we have a stream of young runners ready to compete with the best. Due to our tradition of success and tough international competition from the 800 metres to the marathon, we have a regular supply of talented

and tough runners in Kenya.

You compete a lot abroad. Did you ever feel like settling abroad like your compatriot Wilson Kipketer, world record holder in the 800 metres.

No, not really. I love my homeland and feel comfortable there. In Kipketer's case it is different. He went to study in Denmark, stayed there for seven years and even got married there. So it is understandable that he wants to run for Denmark.

Of your three world championship triumphs, 1991, 1993 and 1995, which one particularly gave you the most satisfaction?

The triumph in 1995 at Gothenburg. It made me really very happy, because the competition was intensive and I was not favoured to win. Also my timing was very good, 8:04.00.

Like the great Sergei Bubka, were you also dreaming of four successive world championship gold medals?

Yes, why not but I missed out in the last 150 metres, when my legs became heavy and I could not gather speed. I had a cold and was not feeling very well.

It is noted that you like leading from the front in all your races? Is that a tactic?

I feel comfortable leading the pack. Because of my regular and intensive training, I am not worried about my lasting ability and can sprint to the finish if required.

When did you start training seriously?

(Laughs). When I was in school, I mainly played football. It was only after school that I took to athletics seriously.

Who were your childhood idols?

In school days, I loved football and so admired Pele and George Best but once I became a regular runner my models of inspiration were the great Kenyans Kip Keino and Ben Jipcho.

TROUBLED GAMES?

Sydney was awarded the 2000 Olympics over China on account of their better human rights records. Now Aborginal groups and human rights activists are calling for a boycott, for the treatment meted out to the ethnic groups in Australia

to them

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA



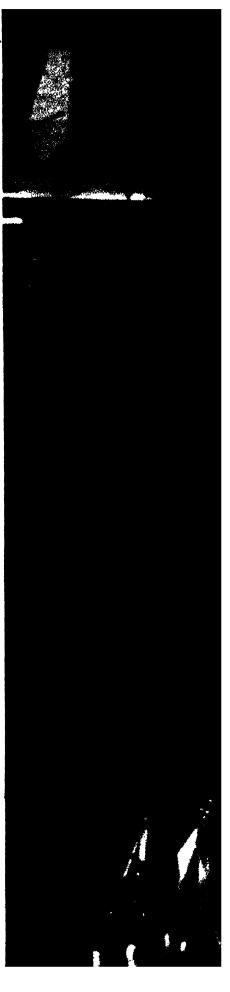
An Aborgine posing in their ceremonial makeup. They are expected to be included in Australia's buildup to the Games

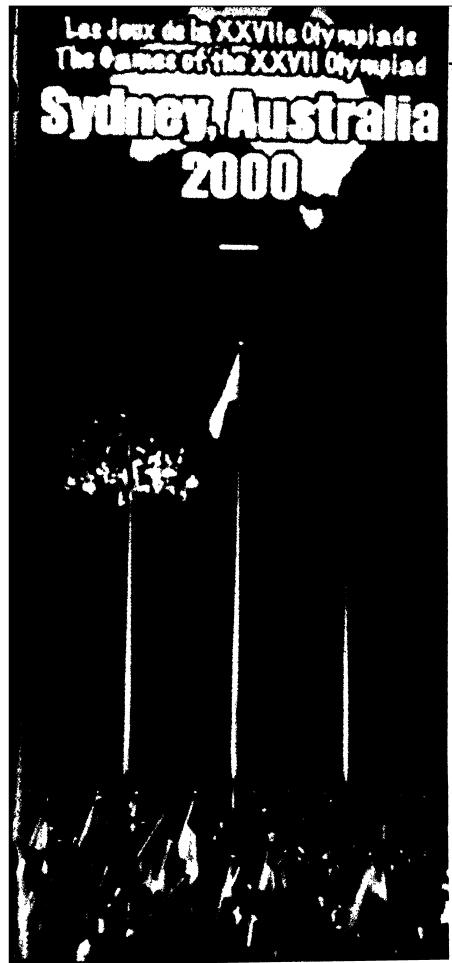
HE call for the boycott of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, which began as a whimper from some corners of the Aboriginal community in Australia has now risen into a crescendo that has taken the international community by surprise.

The boycott call began in the Aboriginal community as soon as it was announced that Sydney had been chosen over Beijing to host the first Games of the next century. The fact that the entire Olympic complex at Home Bush was being built on traditional Aboriginal land annoyed the community even more.

Even though Australia's cultural diversity was a central plank in its bid to host the 2000 Games, Aboriginal and ethnic community leaders have also come out in the open and said they see little evidence that this is being explored in the preparation of the greatest show on earth.

The Ethnic Communities Council even sent a protest letter to IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch complaining that despite claims of multiculturalism during the hot bidding war, minority groups were





Flagbearers of the Olympic nations watch as the IOC President passes on the Olympic flag to the Mayor of Sydney at the closing ceremony of the Atlanta Olympics

being locked out of the consultation process and were being ignored by the official organising committees.

The Council's concerns take on a different twist in the light of the on-going raging race debate which started exactly a year ago from remarks by Pauline Hanson, a novice Parliamentarian who is seen by many in Australia as being outrageously racist. Her One Nation party is being likened to the Klu Klux Klan and their leader.

In one year of racial tension, having won the Sydney bid primarily on grounds of a superior human rights record and being truly multicultural, Australia is being accused by its own indigenous people and ethnic minorities, of having lied to the world about its human rights record and racist attitudes.

Scheduled Parliamentary debate over Native Title (the land rights of Aboriginal people) combined with controversy over an age-old Government policy of "stealing" Aboriginal children from their families, has further fanned the proverbial fire.

Australia has set 2001, (a year after the Olympics, and the century of the Federation) as the Year of Reconciliation, but it seems the country is being further split apart rather than be reconciled with each passing day.

It is in this atmosphere, that the call, for a worldwide boycott of the Olympics must be viewed. A surf of the Internet will provide a good idea of how many "calls" there are for the boycott of the Games.

Most recently, US Human Rights Activist, Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, who heads Black Autonomy International, and whose recent visit to Australia was marred by controversy over his visa, has called for a worldwide boycott of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 because of "racist Australia's crimes against the Aboriginal people."

In a letter on the Internet, Mr Ervin questions the Australian



An Aborgine plays the 'didgeridoo', an Aborginal instrument made from a hollow log. Scenes like this will be on show during the opening ceremony at Sydney

Government's human rights record and lists actions which he says proves Australia is "an outlaw nation, little different from apartheid South Africa."

He calls for the creation of 'A
Boycott 2000 Coalition' to undertake
a worldwide protest against the
Sydney Games and especially an
economic boycott in support of the
Aboriginal inhabitants of the country.
The letter asks people not to attend the
Games and to "tell everyone you
know not to attend. Advise your
church, club, union, college and other
community institutions about the
racist mistreatment of the Aboriginal

people of Australia, and get them to join the economic boycott campaign, until the Australian government recognises the human rights of the Aboriginal people, gives them

reparations for centuries of abuse, and recognises their title to their land."

Mr Ervin reiterates the point made recently by Aboriginal Circle Of Elders chief Robert Bropho that Australia won the right to host the 2000 Games over China, based on a better human rights record.

Mr Bropho told Sportsworld in an exclusive interview that Aboriginal people should not be involved with the Games because of Australia's bad human rights record against the Aboriginal people, "When Australia campaigned to win the right to hold the 2000 Olympics to come to Sydney, they were pitted against China. Prime Minister Howard boasted outright in public that Australia was fair in more ways than one where basic human rights are concerned and we all know that's a bloody lie. That is the reason why we have recently launched our boycott call on the worldwide Internet."

In an appeal on the Internet, the Circle of Aboriginal Elders calls for all "Black and Indigenous people throughout the world to ask all Black and Indigenous athletes not to participate in the Olympic Games in Australia."

"Australia went forward and put up for the Olympic Games based on human rights. We, the First People, the Indigenous Nation of People of this Continent, the First inhabitants of Australia, say unto all Indigenous Athletes and Black Athletes and White Athletes of the world that the Howard Government told a lot of lies about how good the human rights of the Indigenous people of Australia are. They told a lot of lies of how they stood up for human rights. This is not true. This was the reason that Australia was given the Olympic Games over China. The Government of Australia does not and never has respected the human rights of the Indigenous people of Australia," the appeal said.

Charles Perkins, Aboriginal leader and former Deputy Chairman of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) said that Australia's hosting of the Olympics should be used to call attention to the plight of the Aboriginal people.

He said he would like to see the Games go ahead, but hoped that international pressure in the run-up to the Olympics would help to change the current Australian Government's attitude towards its Indigenous people and its ethnic minorities.

"The world ought to know that many of them live in poverty and disgraceful conditions, it reflects how big a joke it is when Prime Minister John Howard says there is no racism in this country." Although Aborigines make up only 2 per cent of the Australian population, they comprise more than 22 per cent of the prison population. They have shorter life expectancy: 54 years for men, compared to 73 for non-Aboriginal people; and 64 years for women compared to 79 for non-Aboriginal women. Aboriginal babies are twice as likely to be of low birth weight and die in infancy. Unemployment among Aboriginal people is four times higher than for non-Aboriginals and only 30 per cent of them have access to education compared to 75 per cent nationally. It seems the complaining and calls for boycotts has the Sydney

organisers sitting up and listening, though the same cannot be said of the Howard Government.

Michael Knight, New South Wales Minister for the Olympics and President of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) has said that the race row is the work of fringe elements and the country's multicultural make-up will be a strength in hosting the Games.

When contacted, a spokesman for the Sydney Olympics Committee said "Multiculturalism would be an absolutely integral part of the Games," adding that this is now being reflected in the planning process.

In a bid to gain Aboriginal participation, the SOCOG will have Aboriginal talent from all around

Australia represented in the Olympic Festival Of Dreaming, the first of four Sydney 2000 arts festivals held for three weeks from September 14 in Sydney.

The SOCOG also recently announced the selection of 12 "Elders" to act as "official Aboriginal hosts and greeters, to be acknowledged at all major events" of the 2000 Games.

The artistic director of the Olympic Festival of Dreaming, Rhoda Roberts told Sportsworld, "I want to highlight, elder statesmen who are our equivalent of our Lord Mayor." She claimed she had pressed SOCOG to appoint Aboriginal Elders in the lead-up to the Games to go with Aboriginal

An Aborgine performs with boomerangs at the Festival of Dreaming, an arts festival to highlight Australia's diversity in culture

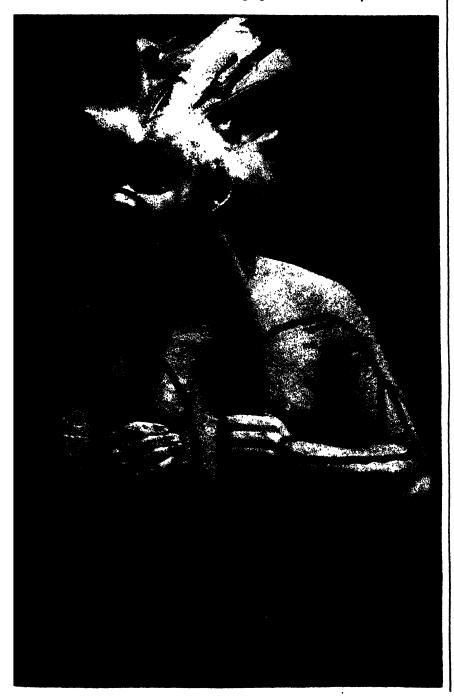
protocol which demanded that Elders welcome people onto their land. Colin Gale, who is a retired motor mechanic and a Aboriginal Elder from western Sydney, also claimed similar credit saying he sent a letter to SOCOG earlier this year urging that Aboriginal people from the area be involved in the Games. "The Olympic Games bid was based on involving the Indigenous people of Sydney and Australia, but we weren't being consulted. We were being ignored and I thought, 'bugger this'. I pointed out that every event was on Aboriginal land." he said.

However, there are certain reservations in the community whether these Elders are merely being used as rubber stamps by the Games' organisers to show the world that there is Aboriginal involvement in the Games.

"Those people have lost contact with their birthright and their sense of belonging. They are what we call the "dollar Aboriginal people. Those are the Elders who have been got at. They have been bought, they've been coaxed," Mr Bropho said.

"The Nyungah Circle of elders aren't too impressed with the SOCOG's efforts to Aboriginalise the Game. I've looked at a photograph of the Olympic Dreaming Festival and you've only got to look at the blokes playing the didjeridu, (An Aboriginal musical instrument made out of the empty bark of a tree). The way they've got the paint on them, it's just their own marking, with no concern or respect for the markings. But in reality there's no meaning to those markings and these young fellows should just get right out of there," Mr Bropho said.

The last few months of this year are going to be vital for the Australian people and for the image they have abroad. While no 'fair-dinkum' Aussie will want the Games to be boycotted and their nation disgraced, there are many who believe that some people, especially the Government better make changes in order to save face. For if things don't look like changing, Australia may have some mud on its face come Sydney 2000.



THEROAD TO FRANCE '98

It has been a long and arduous struggle for teams to qualify for the greatest show on earth. So far, 13 teams have qualified while the others are expected to qualify this month....

BY NOVY KAPADIA

F the road to hell is paved with good intentions, then the road to France '98 is littered with the shattered dreams of disgruntled coaches whose teams have missed the pilgrimage to football's greatest show on earth and broken dreams of players who suffererd similar agonies. Even though FIFA has increased the number of participants in the 1998 World Cup football tournament from 24 to 32, the struggle to qualify is arduous and hazardous as of yore. This is the third time FIFA has increased the number of teams in the World Cup.

Till the 1978 World Cup at Argentina, the maximum number of qualifiers for the World Cup was 16. From the 1982 World Cup in Spain till the 1994 World Cup in the US, the number of participants was increased to 24. With the formation of several new countries in Europe and Central Asia, FIFA's membership has rapidly soared and is near 200. It is the logic of numbers which compelled FIFA president Joao Havelange to increase the number of qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup from 24 to 32.

Increased participation meant an increase in continental representation. Africa will now have five qualifiers. Europe has 15 qualifiers, which includes France as hosts. South America has five qualifiers including Brazil as holders. The representation of teams from the CONCACAF region has increased from two to three. Asia also has three

certain qualifiers instead of two in previous World Cups. A fourth Asian team will have to play-off a double leg tie with the Oceania group winners, Australia coached by Terry Venables (England's successful coach in Euro '96) to reach the World Cup finals in France next year. So for the first time ever, Asia could have four World Cup participants.

The qualifiers started in April 1996 in Europe and South America and in early 1996 in Africa, Asia and Central America and the Carribean Islands (CONCACAF). So far, 13 countries have qualified for France '98. France as hosts and Brazil as holders are automatic qualifiers. The 11 qualifiers include five from Africa, Cameroon in their third successive World Cup, 1994 World Cup pre-quarterfinalists and 1996 Atlanta Olympic champions Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia and debutants South Africa. Three teams have so far qualified from South America: twice former champions (1978 and 1986) Argentina, Pele's favourites which flattered to deceive in the 1994 World Cup, Columbia and Paraguay which last played in the 1986 World Cup at Mexico. From Europe the first team to qualify was Romania from Group 8, the only European team which has won all their qualifiers so far, Bulgaria which pipped fancied Russia in Group 5 and Norway which qualified from the easiest European qualifying Group 2

Deon 'Renaldo' Burton of Jamaica battles Geoff Aunger of Canada in the World Cup qualifier at Kingston. Jamaica won by a solitary goal to secure third place in the CONCACAF group



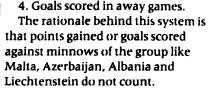
for their second successive and third overall World Cup finals.

Europe has the most complicated qualifying system for France '98. The 49 European countries which dreamt of qualification and glory in the World Cup next year were divided into nine groups. The nine group winners and the best runners-up automatically qualify for the 1998 World Cup. The eight best runners-up will take part in home and away play-offs on Oct.29 and Nov.11, 1997 in matches drawn by lots.

To determine the best runners-up

the UEFA, the governing body for football in Europe, has devised an elaborate system. It is not just a simple matter of matches won, points accumulated, goals scored and conceded. In contrast, the UEFA has drawn up a complicated system based on seeding of teams. The best runners-up in all the nine groups will be decided by the following system:

- 1. Points gained in matches against the teams coming top, third and fourth in respective games.
 - 2. Goal difference in these games.
 - 3. Goals scored in these games.



Of the nine groups in Europe, three qualifiers Norway (Group 3), Bulgaria (Group 5), and Romania (Group 8) are known. In group 7, Holland are almost certainly through. Unless they lose by a large margin in their last match at home against Turkey and runners-up Belgium thrash Wales by over 10 goals (a remote possibility), Holland is set to qualify for the World Cup for the seventh time. So for all practical purposes Holland are through to France '98 and Belgium will in all probability emerge as the runners-up in this group. However, mathematically the Dutch can be thwarted. So wait for the final result.

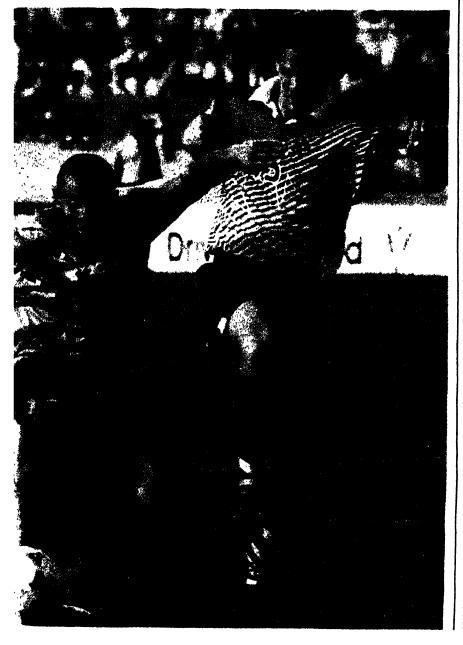
In Group 2, there is a tense qualification battle between three times former champions Italy and 1966 World Cup champions England. This group will be decided in the vital Battle of Rome this month.

England has 18 points from seven matches and Italy has 17 points from the same number of matches. So England just need a draw to qualify. Italy now coached by Cesar Maldini desperately need a win.

Otherwise, the 1994 World Cup runners-up will have to battle with another runners-up in search of qualification. The points Italy dropped in a goalless draw with Georgia at Tblisi on Sept. 10 may prove crucial.

Another near certainty to qualify is Spain in the six-team Group 7.

They have 20 points from eight games. Close challengers Yugoslavia have the same number of points but have played one more game. Spain need four points from their last two matches against Slovakia on Sept.24 and an easy home tie against Faroe Islands this month. Since they lost 1-2 to Italy in a rough, tough, battle of attrition in the 1994 World Cup, Spain has remained unbeaten. The only other loss was to England via the penalty shoot-out in Euro '96 after the match ended goalless.





Northern Ireland's Danny Griffin (right) tackles Alban Bushaj of Albania during the World Cup qualifier in Zurich. Albania won by a lone goal

Yugoslavia's last match is an away tie against Malta. So Spain is tipped to progress from Group 6 and Yugoslavia will emerge as the runners-up.

In Group 8, the fight for the runners-up spot is between Republic of Ireland, Macedonia and Lithuania. By beating Lithuania 2·1 in an away tie, the Irish are favoured to bag the second spot. Romania are runaway champions of this group.

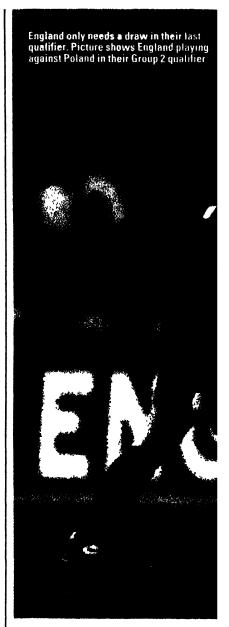
In other groups, the qualification struggle is wide open. In Group 1, Denmark, Greece and Croatia are still in contention. Finland, Hungary and Switzerland are the trio vying for the runners-up spot in Group 2. Norway which upset Brazil 4-2 during the latter's '97 summer tour of Europe, has qualified from this group.

There is a titanic struggle between Scotland and Austria for topping Group 4. Austria is the in-form team with three successive wins, against Estonia 3-0. Sweden 1-0 and Lativia 1-0 and should pip the Scots for the top spot in this group.

Bulgaria has qualified from Group 5 and Russia are almost certain to emerge as runners-up. The upsets are in Group 9, where Germany the most

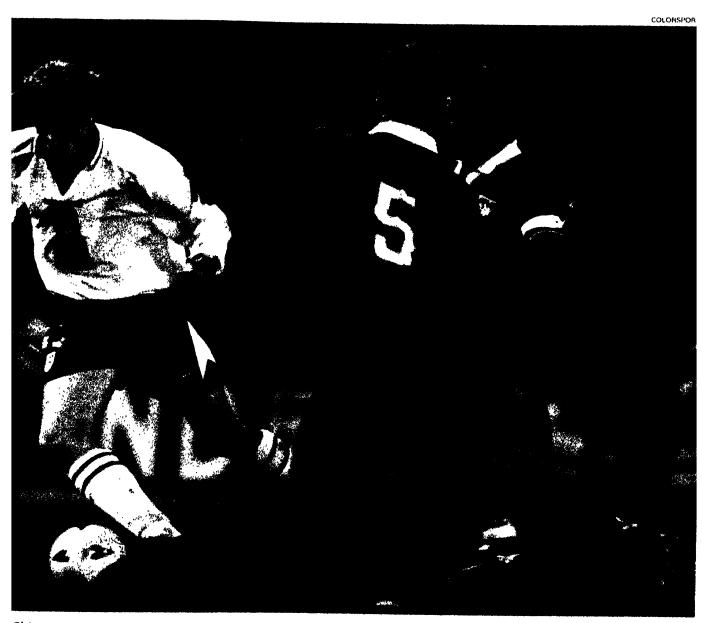
consistent team in the World Cup are struggling to qualify. Coach Bertie Vogts' grouse is that his players had an attitude problem after winning Euro '96 and took qualification for granted. Germany struggled to draw with Portugal in both home and away matches. Even against third placed Ukraine, the highly rated Germany drew goalless away but won 2-0 at home. However, Germany has an easy last match against Albania at home and should win by a large margin to emerge narrow group winners. Portugal will emerge as runners-up.

Qualification in Africa was held on a two tier basis. Twenty teams qualified for the second round, held on a home and away league basis. Nigeria were the most impressive qualifiers, notching up 16 points from six matches, having scored 12 goals to emerge champions of Group 1. Tunisia, the first African team to win a match in the World Cup finals when they beat Mexico 3-1 in 1978, qualified after a lapse of 20 years. They topped Group 2, five points ahead of tancied Egypt. South Africa re-admitted to FIFA in the early Nineties reached their first-ever World Cup finals by winning Group 3. Cameroon has made it to their fourth



successive World Cup finals by overcoming Angola and Zimbabwe in Group 4. Morocco were impressive winners of Group 5 beating Ghana 1-t in their home match to finish on top, with 13 points and a tally of 15 goals ir six matches.

In Asia, qualification was also on a two tier basis. Initially, the teams were divided into ten groups of four teams each. The ten group winners were further divided into two equal groups The teams in Group A are China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. Matches are in progress on a league basis. Iran has already scored a memorable 4-2 comeback win over



China at Beijing. Iran and Saudi Arabia are favoured to qualify from this group. In Group B, the participants are South Korea, Japan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the UAE. South Korea are already leading this group with two successive wins. In the third round, the winners of Group A play runners-up of Group B and vice versa. The winners qualify for the linal. The semi-final losers' playoff, with the winners qualifying for the linal. The losers or the 4th team of Asia plays Australia, winners of the Oceania qualifying section.

The nine teams of South America played their World Cup qualification

matches on a round robin league format. Twice former World Champions Uruguay is way down in seventh spot and likely to miss qualification again. They failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup also. Chile, Bolivia and Peru are in contention for the fourth spot from this group. Chile has home advantage in their decisive matches against Peru and vs Bolivia on Nov. 16 and should be favourites to emerge as the fourth qualifier from South America. Argentina, Columbia and Paraguay and Brazil (as holders) are already through.

In the CONCACAF section,

matches were played on a three tier basis. For the final round, six teams qualified and matches are being held on a home and away basis. Mexico are the only unbeaten team in the group so far and are favourites to qualify as winners. Three teams from CONCACAF will qualify for France '98. After Mexico, second placed Costa Rica, the USA qualifiers in 1990 and 1994, El Salvador and Jamaica are struggling for the remaining two berths. Competition is so intense that the outcome will only be clear in the last round of matches in the CONCACAF group on Nov. 16. So hold your breath!

tucked under his arm, Pat
Rafter invited some of the
greats of Australian tennis to
join him for a beer in a bar in New York's
swank Park Avenue. It was a typical Aussie
celebration: beers, more beers, songs and, of
course, 'Waltzing Matilda'. As John
Newcombe, Ken Rosewall, Fred Stolle and
Tony Roche toasted the new champion,
Rafter was unsure whether he deserved to be
in the same company of players he calls tennis
Gods.

And he was right. Patrick Rafter did well to come from No.64 in the world to No.3 in eight months and his win will boost Australian tennis, but to put him into that elite category would be jumping the gun, to say the least.

And he realises it.

The media have labelled him "The Outback Kid who is the King of New York," "Nice Guy who can inspire a nation," "an unique gem" and described how "Pat raises the Rafters," but the man himself says he only wants to enjoy his game.

"If I fall to No.50 in the world and I'm happy, it's a lot better than being No.1 in the world and being a pain in the ass. I just want to keep enjoying my tennis, being a happy person and enjoying my life."

Many of the Australian greats who ociebrated his success in New York felt sure that Australian tennis would capitalise on Rafter's Grand Slam victory better than it did with the other Pat... Cash's Wimbledon triumph.

They told him to forget the money that is bound to flow his way as Australia's latest tennis star. Now that he is in the top three in the world, fellow Australians who have been

GO ALICOIE



here, say that Rafter faces the toughest welve months of his career.

His prize money at the US Open took his arnings past the \$3 million mark, but ccording to John Newcombe, Rafter cannot fford to rest on his laurels.

he ball park figure is that pretty soon. epending on how quickly he enters contract egotiations, Rafter will be earning in excess f \$5 million a year, which puts him third in ustralia's richest sporstmen list.

George Minis, who manages Pat in onjunction with brother Steve, says Rafter's good looking sex appeal" will see him aimed t a very broad target market, but says his ndorsements will be limited to "two, three, erhaps four quality products."

His present endorsements are expected to ise by ten times their present value, not orgetting the fact that Rafter has now played imself into some big money tournaments icluding the Grand Slam Cup and the ATP hampionships at the end of the season.

As well as benefitting personally, Rafter will lso be good for Australian tennis.

"We can all hang our flag on this guy," said ustralian tennis official and international mpire Bill Gilmour, "He is a throwback to ustralia's great tennis past, both in style and haracter."

Tennis Australia, which plans to nerchandise a calendar and tennis game saturing Rafter, is claiming the young Aussie s "The Tiger Woods Of Tennis."

"I think we will see a new generation of ttle Rafters hitting courts around the country rying to emulate their hero, "says Tennis ustralia's marketing man, Peter Johnston.

Hours after Rafter's win, Tennis Australia ent out a media release headlined "Aussie ennis boom" detailing a rise in sales of tennis alls of 12 per cent and racquets of 10 per cent. If it doesn't lift Australian tennis, nothing vill," said good mate and sparring partner tark Philippoussis.

Steve Rafter, who is three years older than at and his co-manager believes his brother is ood for international tennis in general. ecause he has the temperament to handle ny fame which comes his way.

The game needs a personality, not a brat and Pat's not a brat. We're from a big family nd anyone who is from a big family knows hat there's always someone who will pull ou into line quickly."

espite his rise to fame, Rafter is typically

Many of the Australian areats who celebrated his success in New York felt sure that Australian tennis would capitalise on Rafter's Grand Slam victory better then it did with the

Australian, 'I'd love to make a big impact at home," he said. "But when it's all over, I'm going to be the same old sack of crap that I am."

His new fans at New York realising what a hardcore Aussie Rafter was, cheered him on by shouting, "C'mon mate" and "Make it a gidday, mate," in the worst Australian accents that only Americans can generate. Philippoussis was also often seen in Rafter's guest box at the US Open and joined in chants of "Go. Aussie Go."

Rafter revealed after his US Open triumph that there was a simple secret to his success. He likes to call the shots himself and that's both on and off the court.

Unlike many touring professionals, the 24-year-old does not have a travelling coach. He travels the world on his own and practises with friends like fellow Davis Cup player Mark Philippoussis, but to a schedule and program he has devised himself.

Yet, although often on his own, Rafter is far from being lonely at the top. He has put together a network of advisers which include coaches Tony Roche, John Newcombe, John Fitzgerald, close friends Garry Tickler and Paul Kilderry and his family. In fact, he says, his large family is the backbone of his success.

For the Rafters, it was the day they had all dreamt of. A family home in a Brisbane suburb in Queensland held centre court for the family when he played Greg Rusedski in the final. After Pat had won and the doors were opened and the family were swamped by the media and well-wishers, mum and dad, brother and sisters, were easy to spot —they were the ones with the widest grins.

Jim and Jocelyn Rafter were joined by six of their nine children to watch the game behind closed doors. Two others were in New York seeing the real thing.

"I think he just got sick and tired of not doing what he wanted to do," Mr Rafter said.

And now the Rafters and all of Australia hope that Pat doesn't get tired of all the fame and money and go the way that Pat Cash did after his Wimbledon triumph. The grapevine has it that the head that sports a Chinese ponytail is far more mature than his partying lifestyle suggests.

One thing's for sure: Pat Rafter parties hard and plays hard. And just in case the girls out there are wondering whether he has a girl friend or not. The bad news is that he has a girl irlend. The good news is that, according to Pat, "It's a pretty open relationship."

DERS' FORUM

TERMINAL DECLINE

NDIAN cricket has been in terminal decline for the past few years. From the heights of glory in the early '80's, Indian cricket is slowly marching towards the depths of despair. The players have been accused of match fixing and betting scandals. The regional bias of the selectors and the selection fiascos have aroused widespread discontent. People have become tired and bored watching the team play. Madan Lal has been too low profile a person to coach a team led by a superstar like Sachin Tendulkar.

The main cause for the downfall of Indian cricket has been due to the loss of confidence. The Indian cricketers have talent and technique starting from Rahul Dravid to Saurav Ganguly, Venkatesh Prasad, Srinath, Anil Kumble, besides the great Sachin Tendulkar. But when the situation demands, they just fail to apply themselves.

They suffer from psychological intimidation and lack the fighting spirit. In the hours of gravest crisis, Sachin Tendulkar has proved to be the only possible messiah.

There have been very few occasions when the team has recovered from the shock of losing Sachin's wicket early. The Indian team somehow lacks the ability to innovate under pressure. With the fall of Sachin's wicket, the opposition smells blood, the pressure mounts on the Indian side, the attack sharpens and predictably, India totters.

A team with a skipper who says "Always be the aggressor, right down to the last ball," lacks the grit and determination and the 'never say die' attitude. Can this Indian

side be rejuvenated and reach the height of success?

Well, the captain is trying. Let's hope for the best.

BIDISHA SEN, Calcutta



DIRE STRAITS

INDIAN cricket is in dire straits these days. They have been demolished comprehensively by the World Champions Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final. I think, it's time we tickle our brainbox to provide us with the reasons for this situation and the strategies to tackle them.

Why has the Indian team become so vulnerable these days? Why don't they play to their full potential in every match? Why can't Sachin do without Kambli? Will nepotism and favouritism ever cease to take place? Is too much cricket making players become jaded? Are people beginning to lose interest in the game? Why do the Indians get easily satisfied with something less than what they can achieve? Why are the players so individualistic rather than being a part of the team? Why do the Indians lose the match before it's actually lost? Is the team management good? Does the team need a psychiatrist?

These and several other questions need to be answered. After the World Cup, the Indians have just managed to win a solitary tournament: the Titan Cup. They have lost most of the tournaments they have played in. The most disastrous one has been of not reaching the final of the Independence Cup. Bariler, they used to win all major tournaments

on home soil, but this trend has changed too.

It is clear that the Indian team badly needs a psychiatrist. Of late, the Indians have been losing matches from the jaws of victory, like the Test match in West Indies where they needed just 120 runs to win the match. Now this happens because they are mentally not that strong and thus a psychiatrist could



help them focus better on the game and help improve their performance in tense situations.

A swot (strength weakness opportunity threat) analysis has to be done for each and every single game. The players of the team should know each another's strengths and weaknesses so that they can do better strategy formulation for each game. Also, it's very necessary to analyse the

opposition's swot. A lap-top computer could probably help them achieve this task.

The manager should be a hard task master. Besides proper strategy formulation, maintaining good relations among the players and arranging for frequent meetings, he should motivate each and every player to give his best by making him work out a lot. He needs to make sensible comments and not comments like "we lost because of the absence of Javagal Srinath" as Mr Madan Lal keeps saying

l don't think the absence or presence of one or two players can



Indians fans looked at the team with such gloominess before the Sahara Cup win

ake the team to its zenith or to its ladir. Cricket is a team game and the should promote team spirit among the players. Madan Laiertainly does not seem to be doing his.

In the end, I would like to say that proper strategy and good team management coupled with the sheer desire to win can only make Indians see the path to the 1999 World Cup.

RAJNISH AGARWAL, Vishakapatnam

DISAPPOINTING

AM an expatriate Indian working in South Africa. I keep a close tag on international cricket through newspapers, magazines, TV, radio and the Internet.

It is extremely sad—and frustrating too-to see yet another disappointing performance of the Indian national team against world champions Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup, as well as the Tests and one-dayers. We all know that cricket is becoming more of a mental game than techniques or skills. But a national team's performance depends on various factors like proper game planning. dedication, application, patriotism etc. STUPIDITY: that's all I can comment on India's display in Sri Lanka.

How can a captain and manager keep experimenting with different combinations? (Sachin, for God's sake, you should relinquish your post of captaincy and concentrate more on your game). Sidhu is the most experienced opener in the present Indian team (avg.41-plus runs), but he has not opened in the one-day games for a pretty long time; trying new bowlers without any international experience and that too in an Asia Cup final? Oh, how marvellous!

It seems that it has become a practice to overlook the consistent performance of our individual players. There should be a system to evaluate each player's performance properly. Like, if 'x' is being selected as a batsman he is expected to score at least 1 run per ball and must average above 40

runs in the innings he has batted. A bowler must restrict the batsmen from scoring at least less than 5 runs per over (including extras) and an all-rounder and wicketkeeper should also keep a minimum standard.

All our team members have played against the best bowlers/batsmen and fielders in the world by now, so there is no excuse about inexperience. The fighting spirit and aggression is completely lacking in our team.

Take the example of South Africa or Sri Lanka. In the last Calcutta Test against India, South Africa won. Azhar made mincemeat of Lance Klusener in the first innings, but the same bowler came back strongly in the second innings to claim 8 wickets. It was such an amazing transformation. Yes, the whole South African team encouraged him and his captain had full faith in him.

As for Sri Lanka, in the first Asia Cup match they were 9 runs for 2 but Ranatunga took the initiative to demolish the Indian attack. I feel Vinod Kambli also has that spirit but he is a guest actor in the team these days! One should feel proud playing for his nation.

These days we also hear in South Africa the news of 'bookies' and their nexus with certain Indian cricket players. Surely the manner in which the Indian players have been performing FORCES us to believe that there could be some truth in it? So please Mr Pataudi, Kapil Dev, Kirmani, Mohinder Amarnath, Srikkanth do something. (Shastri and Gavaskar are very busy doing TV commentary and Vishwanath's interest in cricket is completely gone).

ROSHEN JOHN Louis Trichardt, South Africa

P.S: We wonder whether, after the Sahara Cup win, the fans are as disillusioned as the honourable readers above.

freewheeling

HAT news of T.S.?" a colleague asked

me one afternoon sometime ago.

"Yes indeed," I replied, "What news of T.S? Poor guy. Must be feeling discouraged since we haven't published him for quite a while. More so, after we turned monthly."

My colleague nodded in silence.

T.S. Venkataraman was one of the most prolific freelance journalists we have ever come across. At any given time, there were 30-40 articles of his in stock. They were all neatly typed on toolscap white paper, with a short covering letter. He wrote on all sorts of sports and pastimes that no one else touched: yachting, hot-air ballooning, kite flying, bowling, kho-kho, kabaddi, carroms, etc. He also wrote on mainstream games like tennis, football, cricket and hockey. He had an amazing output.

How did he manage to write so much? Where did he get all this information? ('Surely he must be connected to the Internet') How did he get the time? Did he have a typist? These were some of the questions that we asked each other.

We did not know what he looked like. He stayed in Chennai; he lived in one of the flats of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board. M 28F, is the number that immediately came to my mind, as I wrote the previous sentence. That was how familiar his address had become to us.

We did not know whether he was young or old, married or unmarried, a journalist or a non-journalist. We did not know what exactly he did for a living. Nothing of his personal life was mentioned in any of his covering letters. Suddenly, one day, he started sending articles to us. We published a few and that obviously encouraged him. After that, there was this ceaseless flow.

The supply was so much, that early this year, when I collected the articles that we could no longer use and sent them back, it had become a medium-sized parcel. I felt bad that all this work that he had put in had gone to waste. Maybe, if I had returned it

earlier, he could have got them published somewhere else.

What made this guilt deeper was his impeccable behaviour. He never once asked about the fate of his articles. He never asked about payments which were sometimes delayed. He behaved so differently from the usual free-lancers; they were always anxious and tense, wondering about the fate of their articles, whether it had-been accepted or rejected. I don't blame them since I was once a freelaneer myself and behaved in the same way. But T.S. Venkataraman showed admirable self restraint.

The only sense of sentimentality that he showed was at Christmas, when he would send us a card, with that slanting handwriting of his, wishing us a 'Merry X' Mas and a Happy New Year'.



ILLUSTRATION ARTHUR CARDOZO

I was curious about him. Last year, in October, when it was time for me to go on vacation to Kerala, I wrote him a letter. I told him that I would be stopping over in Chennai for a day. 'Could we meet?' I asked. He replied immediately stating that he would be 'delighted' to meet me. I gave him the address of the cousin with whom I was staying and the date of my arrival. He promised that he would come and meet me. And so, I set out, in the hope of finally seeing the prolific but elusive T.S. Venkataraman.

But fate decreed otherwise. Till Vijayawada, the Coromandel Express was on time. But, in the meantime, a cyclone had hit Andhra Pradesh. The tracks were blown off on the stretch between Vijayawada and Chennai. That distance which the train would have normally covered in a mere six hours, was done in 60 hours, as we took a deviation via rural Karnataka (which matched Kerala in its beauty) and reached Chennai. I was too drained out. So many days of the holiday had been lost. I had to run around to get a ticket on the Trivandrum Mail.

My cousin informed me that a Mr T.S. Venkataraman had dropped in. "How did he look like?" I asked.

"He is a very old man, but with lots of energy," my cousin replied.

I tried calling him up a few times but I kept getting the engaged tone. I was running out of time. In the end, I couldn't meet him.

A few weeks later, when I returned to Calcutta, I wrote him a letter apologising for not being able to meet him. I, of course, had a 'natural' excuse: the cyclone. He replied that it was all right. We would meet another time, he assured me.....

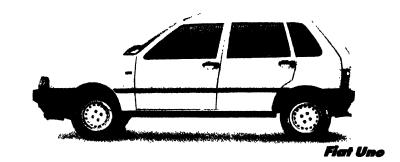
The other day, we received another letter. As soon as I saw the familiar pink envelope, I told my colleagues excitedly, "T.S. has started his flow." But that was not to be. It was a letter from Mrs. Kamala Venkataraman stating very matter-of-factly that her husband T.S. Venkataraman had passed away peacefully on 2nd May this year.

I felt a numbing sense of shock. I realised quickly that I would never be able to see him. That was so sad. I showed the letter to my colleagues. They also looked stunned. For a brief while, the atmosphere in our office, which is normally so full of laughter and gaiety and one-line jokes, became sombre and silent.

I felt an affection and a sort of inner connection with this stranger. I wondered whether it was more than just coincidence that the date on which he died, 2nd May, is also my birthday. Who knows, we might finally meet in our next lives. But for now, this is our message to you, T.S.: "We miss your output! But, may your soul rest in peace."

Shevlin Sebastian

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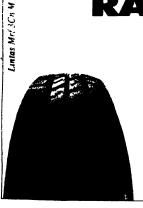


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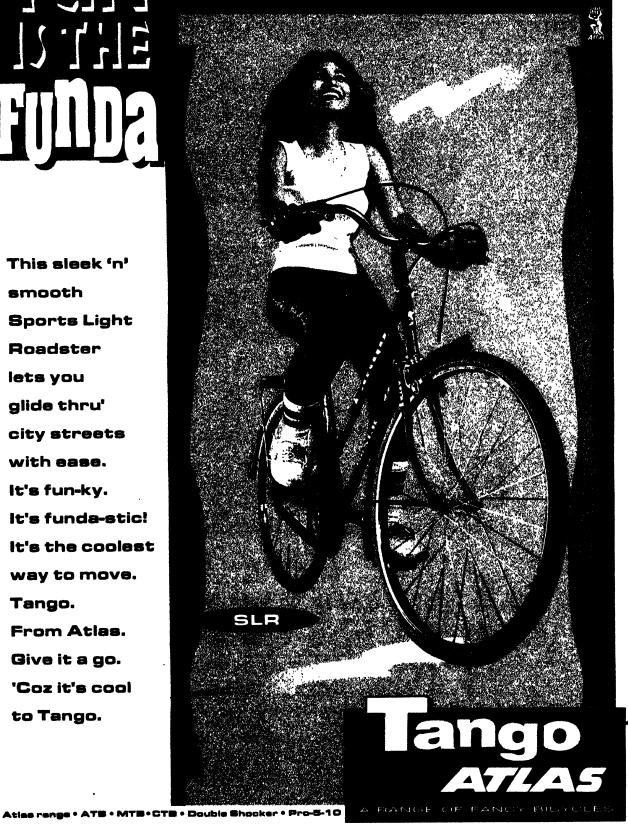
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PREVIEW: INDIA VS SRI LANKA

THE.

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THE RELUCTANT SUPERSTAR

Shy and unassuming, Pete Sampras, with his 10 Grand Slam titles, is on his way to becoming one of tennis' all-time greats

2

PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY

Waqar Younis talks about how he has become one of the most feared fast bowlers in the world

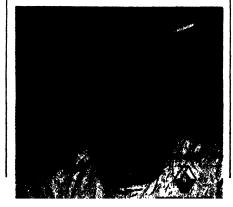


THE NEW KING

Jacques Villeneuve is the new World Champion in Formula One







WILLS CHALLENGE CUP



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PRASANNA



PREVIEW: SRI LANKA Vs INDIA



FOCUS ON SAMUEL OMOLLO



NEW CHANGES IN WORLD CHESS



RUGBY: ALL BLACKS



BOOK OF CRICKET LISTS



FREEWHEELING

Editor: Mansur Alı Khan Pataudı

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF PÈTE SAMPRAS WITH THE '97 WIMBLEDON TROPHY BY' COLORSPORT AND INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF JAYASURIYA BY RASHBEHARI DAS

FIREWOR

After an evenly fought first two games, Pakistan

demolish India in the third one dayer to lift the Wills

Challenge Cup at Lahore

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE



Y his own admission he is a self-made cricketer. And, a damn good one at that. As a batsman, he may not be in the same league as Saeed Anwar, but versatility could well be the middle name of Ijaz Ahmed.

Having made his debut as an opener under Imran Khan, Ijaz has found himself in and out of an extremely talented Pakistan line-up for no fault of his.

He has batted at all positions from No. 1 to seven, grafted when early wickets have fallen and has whacked the ball in the slog overs with impunity while batting lower down. Add to this his tremendous ability in the field—he specialises in the point area—and you have a cricketer who is the delight of every captain.

However, it is only in the last three years that Ijaz has finally cemented his place in the Pakistan middle order with a string of big scores beginning with the tour of Down Under in 1995-96. It required an inspired innings from his bat to put his name up there along with the very best.

For those who were witness to his epic of an innings against archrivals India in the final one-dayer at Lahore, will testify to the quality of the knock. His unbeaten 139 as an opener not only won the match and the series for Pakistan, but it also drew wholesome praise from a maestro like Geoff Boycott, who said that he had not seen many better knocks in limited overs cricket.

There was not a single false shot in the course of his entire innings. He saw the ball early and middled



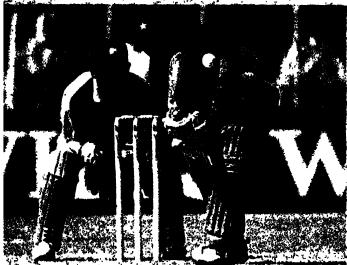
PERSPECTIVE



Japania's velicult import of 76 in the fine was the only decent start form the indian still of where



"Alles the Terture draphing the Enkistent tops heat not stuck to ghost about and have they gaighten the fall of an Indian winker



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to perfectly to demonstrate the powers. And madice Studied Algeria and Senior Lovernitys, he did not give size beginers a givest of architics.

Airdi, state other end in lact, suddenly looked quite bedestrian in comparison. Solly was ileas mastery tinder the lights, it was the sort of intings which psyches out the opponents. And that is what happened to the littlens who had earlier dug their own grave by betting pathetically on a wichet which was full of turns after curving out a sensational victory to severate series at Karachi.

Saurav Ganguly mey have walked away with yer another Man of the Match award in that scindilating Katachi match, but for India the real heroes were Robin Sirigh, Saba-Karim and Rajesh Chuthan, as Saurav himself-acknowledged after the match.

In the end it was Saurav's tight bowling, which als fetched him two wickets, and a pleasing 89 which tilted the scales in his favour for the award, but the lact remains that an awful lot still remained to be done when he departed.

Scidem has the Indian lower order won a particle for the team with the bat. Almost one year after Anil Kumble and Jawagal Srinath had pulled off an unlikely win against Australia in the Titan Cup in Bangalore, Robin and Karim's tenacity brought India on the threshold of a breath-taking victory.

And Chauhan partially exorcised the ghost of that last ball six by saved Miandad off Chetan Sharing Seglam Mushtaq over midwicket for a maximum result.

Thanks to a heart-stopper of a match, the ugly incidents of stone throwing by a section of the crowd as some ladian players while they were fielding, which forced sachin Tendnikar to stage a walkout, were laight lorgotten. Miter all it was indo-Pek ericket at its best.

The Mydisseball match played on a disticult statice, and an equally bed but leddown a bit of a damp solid. Sault taved and Saultavar a through the indian managed only.

170 Rabul Draylisms timely amongst the twee wi acted 30 but Rajeting governor amongst the twee with the finding a few Change wickets shall all the indians to wind March and Antice the indians to wind March and Rajeting and March and Antice the indians to wind March and March

On the affect are enjoyable arties that for Lines displois attentions, especially by the skind unjoint in the second muscle.





JCTANT ERSTAR

BY PAUL FEIN

"I would give all my lame for a pot of ale, and safety." -- Henry V

IKE an ace delivered with his trademark power and precision on match point, Pete Sampras ended a press conference this summer with his oft-repeated credo: "And when it's all said and done, it's not the fame or the money, it's what I've done in the game, and that's to win the major tournaments."

Sanipras knows that's what he'll be remembered for, and he confides, "I think a lot about that." His place in tennis history as one of the all-time greats—along with Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Pancho Gonzales, Jack Kramer, Don Budge and Bill Tilden—is already assured, thanks to his 10 Grand Slam titles.

Tennis, one of the least statistical of sports, suddenly is buzzing about Sampras' relentless pursuit of Roy Emerson's record 12 Grand Slam singles titles. Nearly all the Australian stars of yesteryear, whom Sampras idolized as a boy for their classy games and character, believe the 26-year-old American will surpass Emerson.

"Pete is at the stage of his career where he has really got it together," says Emerson. "I think he's got so many more Grand Slam titles (coming) under his belt. It's going to be a piece of cake for him."



"People look up to me and I have to admit, I don't like being looked at. I'm in the right business to play tennis, but that's the only part of the business that fits me."

Anyone watching Sampras devastate Carlos Moya 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in the Australian Open final; Cedric Pioline 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the Wimbledon final and Mark Philippoussis 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 and world No. 3 Patrick Rafter 6-7, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 in the Davis Cup semi final would have to agree. As another Aussie, Todd Woodbridge put it, after getting clobbered in the Wimbledon semis by Sampras, "He's human, but not by much."

The admiration between the rollicking but dedicated Australians of the pre-Open Era glory and the low-key Sampras is mutual. "I couldn't think of anyone I'd rather see break it, because Pete is a terrific ambassador for tennis and a terrific ambassador for America," says Emerson. "All around the world he's very well respected. This is the type of person you need as champion for all the young kids to emulate."

When Sampras whipped Andre Agassi for his seventh Slam championship at the 1995 U.S.Open, he confidently declared that there was no reason he couldn't win seven more. Even if he does, many experts believe that smashing Emerson's record won't automatically confer "the greatest player ever" stamp on Sampras.

After all, the redoubtable Emerson piled up his titles in the mid-1960s when the leading professionals, including Laver, Gonzales and Ken Rosewall, were barred from the amateur-only Slam tournaments.

Furthermore, other superstars, like Kramer and Lew Hoad, turned pro early in their careers, while World War II cut out the primes of Budge and Bobby Riggs. How many more Slam titles would these legends have amassed had they been given the chance?

The "greatest ever" debate thickens when you consider other criteria such as Davis Cup results and world No.1 rankings. Sampras, the hero in America's thrilling Davis Cup triumph over hosts Russia in 1995, has often skipped Davis Cup matches, while notching a modest 13-5 singles record in his 10-year career.

On the other hand, "Sweet Pete" will likely finish 1997 on top of the ATP rankings for the fifth straight year, matching the Open Era record Jimmy Connors set in 1974-78. And let's not forget the three season-ending ATP Tour World Championships (featuring the top eight players) that Sampras has captured.

We must also factor in the degree of domination Sampras has demonstrated over his opposition in an era of unprecedented





talent and depth. No previous champion can match his 10-2 won-lost record in Slam finals or his amazing feat of surrendering only three sets in those 10 victorious finals.

Even the most persnickety critic will hail Sampras as the greatest, however, if he manages to win just one championship at the French Open, his bete noire. Although Sampras hasn't advanced past the semi finals there in eight tries, he proved at the 1994 Italian Open that he can excel on European clay. After Sampras obliterated Boris Becker 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in the final, Becker marvelled, "He's playing tennis like they will play the game in the 21st century."

Sampras witnessed Borg's futile quest for a U.S. Open title—"It killed him"—and Ivan Lendl's magnificent obsession with Wimbledon—he imported English sod to help solve its riddles—and he's determined not to torment himself as they did.

Will Sampras, like compatriots McEnroc and Connors, along with Becker and Stefan Edberg, continue to see his aggressive shot-making get bogged down on the slow, salmon-hued clay at Roland Garros? Not it sheer genius, a complete all-court game, improved conditioning and undisguised ambition count.

"There is no high like waking up knowing you've won another major—nothing like it," Sampras attests. "That's what I want—the (Grand Slam) record and the French."

If only his quest for immortality were that simple. After winning the ATP Championship without losing a set in August, Sampras told reporters, "I want to make you guys write about the tennis." Instead, the media often fault him as a champion for being too dominating, gentlemanly and uncontroversial, to be considered exciting. This feeling is there only in America in the '90s!

Tony Trabert, a sporting champion from the more innocent 1950s, blames society, and not Sampras, for today's sports fans not going wild over "An American Classic," as Sports Illustrated headlined him on their cover for winning his fourth Wimbledon.

"If some people think he is boring, how do they describe Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Arthur Ashe and Don Budge. They minded their own business and made no scenes and yet were special champions," says Trabert. "They weren't big stories because they were not out with prostitutes or got caught driving drunk

We must also factor in the degree of domination Sampras has demonstrated over his opposition in an era of unprecedented talent and depth. No previous champion can match his 10-2 won-lost record in Slam finals or his amazing feat of surrendering only three sets in those 10 victorious finals



or bit somebody's car off "

Sampras sometimes wishes he competed during the kinder, gentler Laver-Rosewall era when the press socialised with the players, and 'they just cared about the tennis.' But he's become less concerned about his image in a celebrity-obsessed world that too often worships style over substance. "The more I won, the less I started to care," he says. "I don't need to really sit here and explain and apologise for the way I am. Because I felt I had to do that for a couple of years...The way I look at it is that who I am was the way I was raised by my parents. That's the way I'll continue to be. And to be criticised for that is something I'll never understand."

Given the choice to do commercials or relax at his Tampa home in his off time, Sampras will nearly always take the latter. "I don't need the money. I don't need the fame. I can go out and play golf," says Sampras. When he isn't golfing, he speeds around in his \$80,000 Porsche 4S Cartera, plays some hoops, watches TV (his latest interest is Formula One auto racing), or spends time with his new love, actress Kimberly Williams.

Kimberly Williams, Sampras' new love, cheers him on at Wimbledon from the Players' Box

"There is no high like waking up knowing you've won another major—nothing like it," Pete Sampras

In his appealing 1995 Nike television commercial called "Guerrilla Tennis," he and then-archrival Agassi stopped traffic and squared off in a busy San Francisco intersection where they mingled with the crowds to inject fun and excitement in tennis. Sampras also did a pizza commercial with McEnroe "to show the lighter side of me," although he had misgivings about that and later said, "I want my racket to do the talking. I thought the way they (McEnroe and Connors) acted on the court was embarrassing. I didn't want a reputation like that."

Indeed, the only reputation Sampras wants is for his on-court exploits and sportsmanship. "The only time I'm really happy around tennis is when I'm playing tennis, and that's it," he confides. The truth is, this shy guy would rather not be a star at all. "People look up to me and I have to admit, I don't like being looked at. I'm in the right business to play tennis, but that's the only part of the business that fits me."

While hardly a showman, recently Sampras



has become more animated and has adopted Connors's patented fist-pumping after smacking winners on pivotal points. During his deciding Davis Cup victory over Rafter, he even glared a few times at the upstart Aussie who two weeks earlier captured the U.S. Open title Sampras had won the previous two years. Afterwards Sampras draped the American flag over his broad shoulders and did a victory lap for the jubilant crowd.

Part of Sampras's growing popularity can be attributed to the compassion and strength he has shown in overcoming adversity, especially the untimely death of his beloved coach and confidant, Tim Gullikson, from brain cancer 18 months ago.

Sampras had earlier lost his close friend, the fun-loving 1970s star Vitas Gerulaitis, in a tragic carbon monoxide poisoning accident. Last fall he broke up with his seven-year companion Delaina Mulcahy. And recently, Dr Peter Fischer, a paediatric endocrinologist, who brilliantly coached Sampras from age 9 to 17, has faced 16 charges of molesting boys he met through his medical practice. "He's been like a second father to me since I was eight,"

Boris Becker (right) tells Sampras at courtside, Wimbledon '97, about his decision to quit Grand Slam tennis

"I couldn't think of anyone I'd rather see break it, (Emerson's 12 Grand Slam wins) because Pete is a terrific ambassador for tennis and a terrific ambassador for America," Roy Emerson

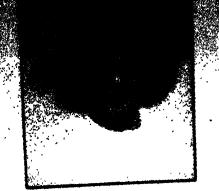
says Sampras.

Williams, best known for starring opposite Steve Martin in the Father of the Bride movies, won Sampras's heart this year and has helped him get through the tough times. "To be happy off the court will help you be successful on the court," says Sampras. "To have someone there for you like I've had is great. It makes things real easy."

The pert, down-to-earth brunette accompanied him to Wimbledon and regularly sat in the Players' Box. When Sampras tapped his chest near his heart three times after the final while looking at her, the signal, Williams revealed, meant "1-LOVE-YOU."

"After I won Wimbledon I was as happy as I've ever been," says Sampras. "People said to me, 'You looked so happy'. And, yes, I was showing a lot more emotion than I've shown in the past. The reason is simple—it's because I'm happy."

All's fair in love and tennis, and now superstar Pete Sampras has yet another winning weapon.



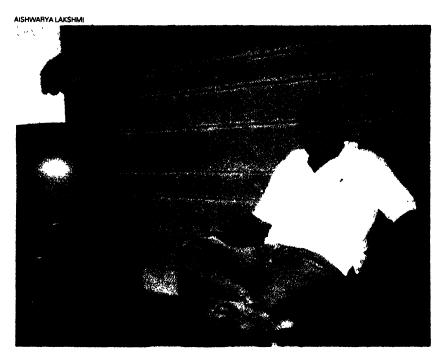


The picture on the wall is that of Sri Satya Sal Baba. Prasanna is a great devotee and follower



NE of the illustrious members of the famous quartet of spin bowlers who graced India's cricket firmament in the sixties and seventies. Erapalli Anantharao Srinivasa Prasanna's normal days are as normal as anyone else. 'Pras', as he is known to the cricketing world, lives a happily domesticated life with his wife and daughter and the company of two Daschhunds and an adopted Spitz.

"At home, I'm very domesticated. We're all lovers of dogs and have adopted a Pomeranian dog which had been left deserted on the road by an unscrupulous owner. I take Fluffy out every morning and evening for walks. So do I with my other two German



Meet the former legendary off spinner who leads a blissful family life

breeds, Fielie and her daughter Fia. This is one thing which keeps me busy," explained the 57-year-old Pras.

"After coming back from my walk with my dogs, I help my wife in domestic work. Since I'm not totally involved as an engineer I've got enough time to help Sheima in household matters," said Pras.

"What about your evenings and weekends," I asked Pras.

"I take my wife and daughter out. Because they're the people who've lent so much support to me during my playing days," Prasanna stated, "Now that I have a lot of time to spare, I'm trying to give it back to them in the best possible way. Till recently, I used to keep myself occupied playing a bit of golf at the Karnataka Golf Association where I'm a member. It is a stone's throw from the house. Otherwise, I devote most of the time to my wife Sheima and my daughter."

Pras met Sheima when he went to Calcutta to play for South Zone against East. Anyway, he met Sheima



and was smitten.

"Sheima comes from a highly cultured sports-loving family hailing from the Ballygunge area of south Calcuita. I proposed to her and she accepted," recalled Pras. It has been a marriage made in heaven and they have a 23-year-old daughter Shagorika.

Shagorika has seriously taken after her mother's artistic interests, studying in Chitrakala Parishat. Like any other parents, the Prasannas are now hoping for a good match for their daughter. That's on top of their priority list. Prasanna is very keen on a Brahmin boy as he feels that the cultural shock could then be avoided. They are just waiting for Shagorika to complete her education.

Pras is a great devotee and follower of Bhagwan Sri Sai Baba. Earlier, he was a regular visitor to Whitefield and would visit Puttaparthi at least once a month to get the Baba's darshan.

For the moment he's a bit pre-occupied with the job of putting up a stadium at Puttaparthi where a World XI will take on an Indian XI on December 30.

Because of this, he stays two days a week at Puttaparthi. In fact, Pras had the vision of the Swami way back in 1954 when he was just 13 or 14 "It happened on Kempe Gowda Road. I suddenly turned around and saw Baba in a black car with a big smile. Unfortunately, I did not realise the impact of Baba then because I was very young.

"In 1973, I had his darshan again in Hyderabad and Swami created vibhuti on me with his own hands. Coming from a very religious and God-learing family, I've been his true devotee and am seriously engaged with the work entrusted by him now," Pras explained and added, "Otherwise. I don't think of cricket at all."

There was a look of sadness on his face when he said this. He continued: "I missed the bus a long time ago. I mean, somewhere around 1986, I was tipped to become a national selector and that too, I think, as a chairman. Nagaraj (KSCA secretary) had then



indicated to me that I was one of the probable candidates,"revealed Pras. "I replied that I would be most willing if the assignment came my way so that I could justify the Board's confidence to make me as a selector. Somehow, a feedback to the Board was given that I was not interested in the selector's job resulted in me missing the bus. Since then, I don't think I've ever been near to the cricket ground except when *The Statesman* asked me to cover the World Cup. I don't think I'll ever get another chance to be involved with the game. That's why I don't think about cricket at all."



A qualified electrical engineer, Pras is greatly indebted to his father who insisted that he should complete his engineering course. Because those were the days when cricket was a pastime and not a money-making operation as it is now. But he also felt that engineering helped him to take wickets (189 Test wickets and 957 first-class wickets in a career spanning 18 years.)

As Pras explained: "Engineering helped me to improve my bowling. Because, engineering basically is a commonsense and analytical approach. The mathematics

Prasanna with his Bengali wife Sheima and daughter Shagorika

that goes with engineering helped me to flight the ball well."

"Eut then looking at it from another angle, engineering also did not help me in my career. As a cricketer cum engineer, in the office I was looked upon as a cricketer rather than an engineer. The management thought that I would always be busy with the game. On the other hand, in cricketing circles, I was always identified as an engineer. So

engineering, in the truest possible sense, has not really helped me even though I felt I had the commonsense and man management principles needed to get the best out of my colleagues.

"But the management thought otherwise. As a result I was deprived of promotions and used to get dejected. That's the reason why I changed jobs so frequently and became a rolling stone. People might have callled me mad, impulsive, egoistic, arrogant etc., but I changed jobs only when I was deprived of my due promotions," Pras said ruefully.

VARLETY

IN A HERO'S

Viviana Senna, sister of Ayrton Senna (picture in the background) announces with Renault Chairman Louis Schweitzer, (left), the creation of a Senna Foundation for the benefit of children in Jerez in Spain

MEMORY

Adailes Deolay

Although hadis loss the decider at Lahore her overall performance in the cight-match scries sealmet Pakistan was quite satisfactory. That is to say, India trounced Pakistan 5-3 overall; Sautay Ganguly put up an exceptionally good performance in all the matches both with the bat and the ball. He has preved himself to be a very successful all-rounder, Our bowlers—despite most of them lacking in international experience—performed adequately,

However, some more time should be given to these rookies to adapt themselves to the passives of international cricket

MILT SHARKS

READERS' FORUM

EADERS are invited to send contributions to the Readers' Forum page. All submissions should be typed neatly on a white foolscap paper, accompanied by a pateport size colour photograph. The stiller should be not more than 600 words long and should desi with inspecting lesses concepting speci



New Heroine

NY amount of praise for Susantika Jayasinghe is not enough as she has eased out P.T.Usha as the sub-continental champion, by winning a silver medal in the 200m at the World Athletic Championships in Athens.

Her victory compels us to sit up

and assess our own lack of impact on the international stage.

We should make a comparative study between the Indian and Sri Lankan athletes and see where have we gone wrong. What use are P.T.Usha's Asian level medals before the glaze and glitter of Susantika's World Championship silver?

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.

Panacea

the inconsistent performances of the Indian cricket team whenever they go abroad. One of themals the fact that India does not boast of too many quality players on her reserve bench at present. It is the duty of the BCCI to find out why the players who excel at the junior level often fall to deliver at the senior mage.

The Board about give its A team greater exposure alongside the senior side. The Board should make it computingly for the

Indian stars to participate in the domestic circuit so that upcoming stars can hone their skills playing with them. While the need for sporting pitches in domestic cricket is imperative, the Ranji Trophy and Dulcep Trophy mesches should be limited to 120 and 100 oversimning-wise. This will generate a lot of competitiveness.

As for toam selection, there is no substitute for the zonal selection system. The success of Debashish Mohanty, who hails from a minnow cricket state like Orissa, has once again substantiated the fact.

SUBIR KUMAR SEN, Chicuta

ADVANTAGE,

Sri Lanka, at present, is very high on confidence and ability. They are determined to put it across India in their own backyard

BY SUMIT MUKHERJEE

N 1994, when they last came here for a full-fledged tour, they were the favourite whipping boys of international cricket.

They were dismissed 3-0 in the Test series by Mohammed Azharuddin's rejuvenated side. Three years later, Arjuna Ranatunga's band returns to India this season as men in control of their destinies.

The world champion status sits nicely on the Sri Lankan cricketers these days. Hansie Cronje's men may be more media savvy but Ranatunga's team still retains that down-to-earth image despite their stupendous World Cup victory last year.

History is replete with instances when collective brilliance has often brought about fantastic success. Sri Lanka, therefore, may not be an exception in this regard. But the genuine camaraderie in their ranks make the Lankans an unique species on a cricket pitch —a situation where even the 12th man derives equal pleasure during moments of triumph. And when the team loses, the entire unit universally feels the pain. Their whole approach to the game is positive.

The Lankan Board may not be the most well-to-do organisation in the

Arjuna Ranatunga is probably the willest skipper in international cricket. Will this Indian campaign be another success story for him?



SRI LANKA

world, but it has shown that it has got its priorities right. No sooner had they won the World Cup—the symbol of supremacy in one day cricket—the Lankan Board announced that they planned to make their team the best Test-playing side by the year 2000.

But, in less than a year, they have re-written quite a few world records—the highest number of runs in a Test match innings (952/6 versus India in Colombo in August)—being the crowning glory. It is with this backdrop that Ranatunga and Co. will take on India in the ensuing series.

India may not have lost any of the two Tests they played in Colombo, but the mauling their bowlers received on the flat pitches there can only be compared to the treatment received by the famous spin quartet in the 1978 revival series in Pakistan. The nightmare of going through two days without getting a wicket will continue to haunt the Indian bowlers long after they have given up the game.

In terms of sheer talent, there is little too choose between the two teams. But it is the collective motivation of the Sri Lankan team which, more often than not, helps them to come up trumps when the chips are down.

India, on the other hand, are not known to do their homework religiously. Since 1993, the one country against whom India have played most frequently—in both forms of the game—is Sri Lanka. Yet, their bowlers have little clue about where to bowl when they come up against the Lankan line-up which, has more or less, remained the same over the last few years.

In one-day cricket it may be difficult to plan out a dismissal as the rules are loaded in favour of the batsmen, but even in the longer version, the Indians bowlers have hardly fared any better. The less said about their fielding the better.



Hardly an inspirational leader, Tendulkar is content to tread the beaten path, rather than make things happen. He may have the confidence of the whole team but Tendulkar, unlike his Lankan counterpart, does not seem to have enough confidence in his bewiers

Sechin Tendulker is once again under pressure to perform well. His batting form has deserted him. He needs to keep a cool head on his shoulders if he wants to do well

Tactically too, the Indians have been found wanting. Both Sachin Tendulkar and his predecessor Mohammed Azharuddin have not been a patch on the wily Ranatunga—arguably the best captain in the world.

While Azhar had the tendency to let things drift when things were not going his way. Tendulkar has been a trifle impatient. Hardly an inspirational leader, Tendulkar is content to tread the beaten path rather than make things happen. He may have the confidence of the whole team but Tendulkar, unlike his Lankan counterpart, does not seem to have enough confidence in his bowlers.

Both teams are rich in batting talent and have batsmen with proven pedigree. There is a more settled look to the Lankan line-up than that of India, still struggling to solve the opening problem in Tests.

Logically, Navjot Sidhu, India's most successful opener in the post-Sunil Gavaskar era, should be launching the innings, no matter

Rahul Dravid, after going through a lean patch, should live up to his name tag of 'Mr.Reliable'

Both teams are rich in batting talent and have batsmen with proven pedigree. There is a more settled look to the Lankan line-up than that of India, still struggling to solve the opening problem in Tests

what his equation is, with coach Madanlal.

There is a talk of retaining Saurav Ganguly at No.2 in Tests as well. It is not a bad idea. After the Sahara Cup and the brief tour to Pakistan, his confidence is at a new high. Anyway, it is better to let him come at No.2 rather than letting him decay at No.6

Pushing him up the order will also mean opening a slot in the middle order thereby allowing the new vice-captain Ajay Jadeja a free hit lower down—unless, of course, the selectors decide to open with him instead or go back to Nayan Mongia.

It is the bowling which is India's main worry. The million dollar question is whether Jawagal Srinath will be 100 per cent match fit. More importantly, whether he will be able to bowl at full pace after such an injury. Ditto with Venkatesh Prasad.

No matter how successful Debashish Mohanty and Harvinder Singh were in Toronto, on home pitches they will have only limited utility. The ticklish problem will be whether to allow Srinath and Prasad more time to regain full fitness and stick with the newcomers or pick the Karnataka pace twins and risk another breakdown.

Anil Kumble looks certain to come back if only because there is no one else while it will be a toss-up between Rajesh Chauhan and Delhi's Nikhil Chopra for the off-spinner's slot. More than the composition of the attack, the Indian think-tank will be worried about what sort of surface to opt for, in the Tests.

It is a Catch-22 situation for India really. Chaminda Vaas, Sanjeewa de Silva and Ravindra Pushpakumara form a far more potent opening attack than a semi-fit Srinath and Prasad and Abey Kuruvilla. Therefore the 'ploy' of surprising the visitors with a bouncy track may well prove to be counter-productive.

And if they fall back on under-prepared tracks, you can be sure that Muttiah Muralidharan, Kumara Dharmasena and Jayasuriya will exploit the conditions better than our listless spinners. All this is part of



THE RIVALRY IN FIGURES

INDIA - SRI LANKA TEST ENCOUNTERS

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COMPILED BY HARIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

Sanath Jayasuriya pictured in a puja pendal at Calcutta. He will be one of the key men in the Sri Lankan side

an administrative headache which the BCCI bigwigs should be racking their brains about, in a bid to partially erase the humiliation of 952.

But then it is too much to expect from a body which is struggling to hold its AGM. The present atmosphere in the BCCI only reflects the state of unpreparedness of the Indian team—the recent successes notwithstanding.

Sri Lankans have won a Test match in India. And, given the circumstances, they would never get a better chance to put it across India in their own backyard. The onus is clearly on Tendulkar's men to pay the Lankans back in their own coin. The current scenario, however, does not appear to be too rosy.

It is advantage Sri Lanka, allright.

CAN'T GET PAST THE Kenya's SAMMY OMOLLO has been a brilliant central defender for East Renaal

for East Bengal



BY DHIMAN SARKAR

EBRUARY 16, 1997: Sammy Omollo, playing with a swollen right ankle, stifles JCT star-spangled forward-line comprising the irrepressible I.M. Vijayan, Bhaichung Bhutia and the lanky Nigerian Stephen Abarowei. Omollo watches every step the trio takes and scuppers almost every move they make. East Bengal win their Philips National League home match against the eventual champions 1-0 through Chima Okerie's goal.

Old-timers say this Kenyan central defender brings back memories of the way Syed Nayeemuddin, Aroon Ghosh and Sudhir Karmakar ruled the defensive third.

July 13: A record crowd of almost 1,31,000 watch Omollo repulse Mohun Bagan's repeated onslaught in the opening minutes of their Kalvani Black Label Federation Cup semi-final clash at the Salt Lake Stadium. East Bengal ride a rare hattrick by Bhaichung Bhutia to win 4-1.

July 20: Omollo resuscitates the red-and-gold brigade with an opportunistic equaliser, minutes from time, against Salgaocar in the final of the Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup. But reigning champions East Bengal are dethroned by Bruno Coutinho's brace but most club diehards are convinced that the second goal wouldn't have happened had their ever-reliable central defender not moved up.

August 2: East Bengal, their defence looking bedraggled, are all but over-run by Mohun Bagan in their



With a few East Bengal teammates

first-leg Super Division match. Bagan finally won 1-0 through Dipendu Biswas' 89th minute goal. The reason: Omollo was recuperating from an injury at home in Nairobi.

September 16: East Bengal scrape through against minnows FCI by the narrowest possible margin. Omollo scores the match-winner in the 76th minute of this Super Division tie.

What makes him tick is his uncanny sense of anticipation, superb powers of concentration and remarkable poise. Rarety does his assessment of an opponents' buildup go wrong. Mohammedan Sporting coach and one of India's best midfielders Sudip Chatterjee said Omollo anchors the team.

"He directs operations from deep in his own zone. And his unflappable demeanour was a soothing effect on the team,"he said

"I just have it in me," Omollo explains modestly.

"A central defender should never panic. He may need to be ruthless at



times and being well-built—in Europe almost all of them are over six feet—but mostly it is defending discipline that keeps me going. And, of course, never forgetting the cardinal rule of not getting too close to the opponent who has the ball...It's a

With lethal striker Bhaichung Bhutia at the club premises

tough job but if you time your tackles properly and can think ahead of your opponents, you can do well "explained Omollo.



THE EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED

Foreign recruits have failed to perform to expectations in Calcutta

CALCUTTA's glamouf teams' experiment with foreign players has turned out to be one costly blunder.

Mohun Bagan had to send back three Kenyan imports days after they made a grand entrance. Bast Bengal fared marginally better with Latvians Sergei Kutov and Themaskov Valerie.

Kutov, unable to curb his off-the-ball play, was not in sync with the rest of the team and Valerie was thought to be in poor physical shape. The duo was rejected after an undistinguished stay.

Having burnt their fingers once, Bagan decided to stick to the tried and tested Nigerian Chima Okerie and players from the subcontinent. But if East Bengal learnt anything from this experience, their subsequent recruitment policy belied it. A bunch of Swedes came and went. Only Ulf Johansson got a couple of games in the Philips League.

This season, after promising Samba magic to their diehards, the club is struggling to fit in Brazilians. Hugo Garcia and Marcelo Domingos into their scheme of things. Both have impressed with their deft touches coupled—with set-pieces but have failed to hold their own in the slushy conditions which prevail for much of the football season.

Dhiman Sarkar

The couple flip through a magazine at their Salt Lake residence

If his performance over the past nine months is used as a yardstick, Omollo, it can be said, practises what he preaches.

Another reason why the former Kenyan Breweries captain stands out is because he delays his final tackle till the last possible moment. Call it confidence or what you will but Omollo sure knows what he is doing.

This 26-year-old footballer said no forward in India has really troubled him. He explained how he usually contains some of them: "If it's Bhaichung, you must get to the ball before him. If it's Bruno (Coutinho), then the key to thwarting danger is to prevent him from shooting. And when it's Chima, you know you have to clear immediately. And never try dribbling past him."

Pithy statements, almost overtly simple, but then isn't simplicity a hallmark of greatness?

The one player who has caused this



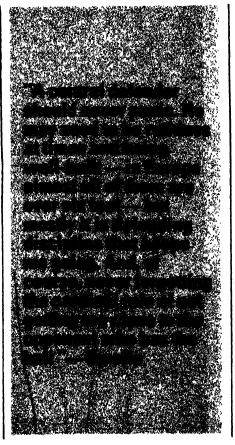
central defender a spot of bother, Omollo conceded, was Air India's Godfrey Pereira who was voted the Player of the Philips League. "He is an extremely intelligent match-maker and that makes him dangerous. He would be lethal if he has the talented support base of schemers which the big teams enjoy."

What, however, worries him is the weather: "In this humidity, you cannot play to your potential beyond 20 minutes." Some food for thought for those who accuse India of playing a static brand of football.

On the international scene, the one man who really troubled him was the little Italian magician Gianfranco Zola. "He is too quick and too intelligent." This central defender met Zola in a Kenya-Italy friendly in 1992. Italy won 2-0.

Omollo, a former captain of Kenya, has played 86 matches for his country between 1990-96, before being ignominiously ejected along with 22 others on charges of indiscipline. He says that it is baseless.

Kenyan football is in the midst of a



Pictured at the entrance to his ground floor flat at Salt Lake

crisis with their Croat coach Vojo being sacked. He was the man who reportedly overhauled the squad in the middle of their World Cup qualifiers but still, they failed to qualify. "Kenya," Omollo said, with a wry grin, "has the same problems as India. The problems are either administrative or financial."

From his ancestral home in Kisumu, near Nairobi, to an apartment in Salt Lake, near Calcutta, Samuel Omollo has come a long way. An all-round sportsman, Omollo played cricket in school with Kenya regulars Maurice Odumbe and Kennedy Otieno. "After beating the West Indies in the World Cup, cricket's popularity has really taken an upswing in Kenya." The young last bowler blossomed into an impregnable defender but cricket's loss is tootball's gain.

In Calcutta, Omollo has shown that class tells like nothing else. A good player is a good player and will be able to adapt almost anywhere.

Historians plans to continuous plans to continuous plans to daughters Venus and Serena in esias Because there is "so much micism in America that assertions don't care about black people."

HAT Thomas Muster sald he'd be ranked new the played at the same level be played in 1989:

EASON that Ion Tiriac oncesaid Andre Agassi hired by NASA: Because his extraordinary shot-making had re-written the of ballistics.

Medivedev says he is Medivedev says he is same to the net more now: We sather die like a man than live like a chicken."

ESSAGE on a large

V banner displayed by

Gus wickers Australia's Davis

Cup wickers over the Czech

Republic: "RAFTER MEET

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The T Martina

Value of the happiest day of my
life": When she beat Chris

Event of the first time.

that John Newcombe and Tony Roche, who won 12 Grand Slam doubles titles, have had as a doubles team in 32 years: 0.

TUMBER of clay court titles Michael Chang has won besides his 1989 French Open title: 2.

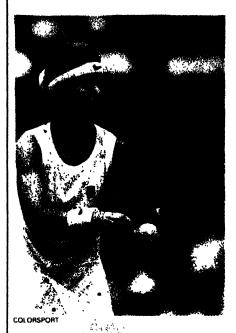




WHAT star-crossed Monica Seles calls the last five years: "Just a washout."

HOW Bjorn Borg described his on-court behaviour as a boy: "I was a madman."

WHAT Sabine
Appelmans was named in 1995: "The most desirable woman in Belgium."



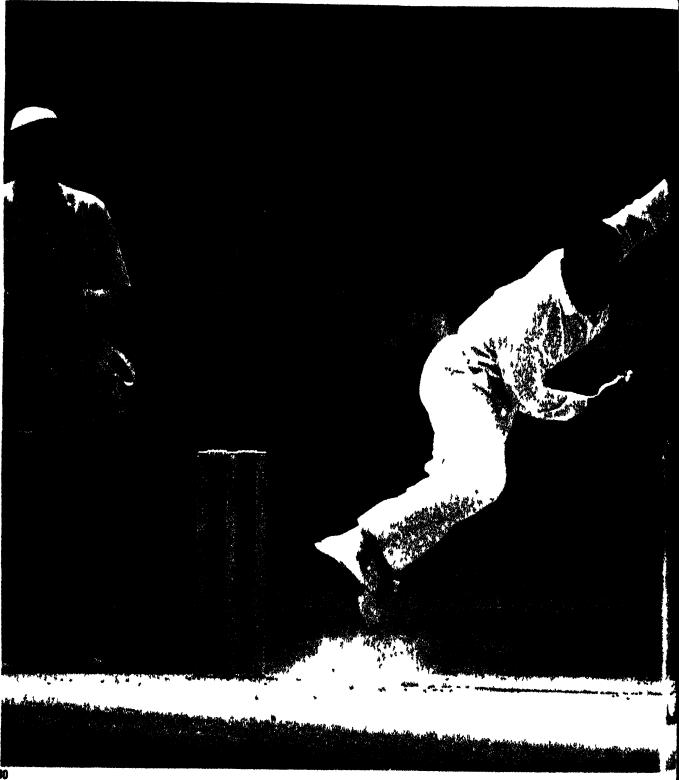
ESSACE on a T-shirt worn by Mary Joe Fernandez: "Weaker Sex? Your Serve, Big Boy."

HOW often Australian Open finalist Carlos Moya talked on the phone with his family in Spain during the fortnight: One hour every day.

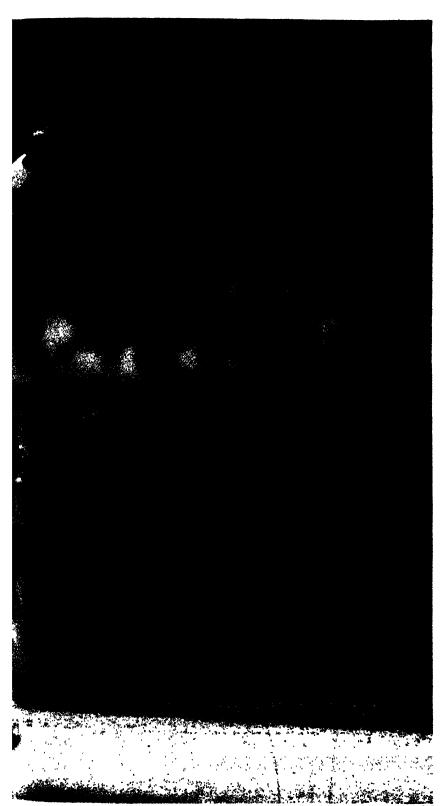
Number of times that former world No.4 Jo Durie was tested for drugs during her 18 years on the protour: 0.

Compiled By Paul Fein

PROGRAMMED



TO DESTROY



In a forthright interview, WAQAR YOUNIS talks about how he has become one of the most feared fast bowlers in the world today

INTERVIEWED BY RICA ROY

Olympics, then going by some recent indications it would be. Waqar Younis who would take home the gold medal. As the youngest player to take 200 wickets at an average of 20 a piece, with one wicket every 38 balls, his statistics are phenomenal.

It was his phenomenal dedication and grit that made him put serious back injuries behind him and once again his ability and appetite for scalps are out there for all to witness. This season Waqar was simply incredible. As Mark Nicholas wrote after a close look at him, "Waqar was exploding out of his slinging action after a long sprint to the crease and was bowling with near scientific accuracy at an extreme pace—one delivery was above 90 kmph—and with a late, dipping swing into the right-handed batsman. It made compulsive viewing."

The speed of his run-up amounted to a little over 4 1/2 miles of short sprints. Add to that, his explosively powerful action and you begin to understand why he's so special to his captain and feared by the best batsmen in the world.

Waqar's devastating use of the swinging ball, very full in length and his yorkers are the ultimate test of a batsman's nerves. With Wasim, their balls are like programmed missiles sent out to break toes, bats and stumps. To this pinpoint accuracy, Waqar has also mastered the art of swinging the old ball.

During a net session at Karachi recently, Waqar demonstrated that when bowling on

When Wager Younis spits fire at the batsmen, very eften than not they run scurrying for cover

The aggression is only for the field. Off it Younis is friendliness personified

dry wickets the ball tends to reverse swing considerably more than on a moist green pitch. "I don't know why, it just does," he said.

Waqar grew up without the luxury of moist, green pitches. He had to take wickets through sheer pace and movement through the air. Early in the innings, with the new ball he doesn't gain much of a swing. That's not his fault. In Pakistan, the new ball ages too quickly. It's a fact that Waqar is familiar with. He has always used the conditions to the best of his abilities and has reaped rich rewards.

Today, Waqar certainly is the 'Master Of His Trade'. In an interesting account of his eight-year-old international career, this articulate yet fiery, amiable yet aggressive Pakistani bowler came up with some forthright explanations and assessments of his cricketing run so far.

The following are the excerpts.

How would you assess your recent performances?

This isn't the best stage of my career. Certainly there has been far, far better performances. But it is just of late that I've realised the true potential in me.

When you are young and energetic, you are willing to go for the raw, red meat of the game. You hardly realise the philosophies that lie deep within. In fact, every game, if you notice, is a short life cycle in itself—the highs, the lows, the agonies, the ecstasies, the glories and the defeats. Each game teaches you such a lot!

And only when you come to accept both the good and the bad on equal terms, your nerves are finally fine tuned and you tend to realise the intricacies of life and try to put in much more than ever before. That makes you a complete person and certainly has an impact on your performance.

So how did you realise your 'true' potential?

That has basically come out of the hard grind over the years. Cricket is a great leveller as everybody says. As you play the game with a great deal of intensity, with eagerness to learn, your talent gets brushed up continually. From a greenhorn, you become a seasoned campaigner. You learn from the mistakes of others and of course from your own; correct them, tune them properly and in course of time you become a lethal bowler.



That's when the true potential is realised

How would you describe your formative

years in international cricket?

I m fortunate to have come up to the international ranks at a very early age. And without Imran. I don't think I would have been discovered because when I first started cricket I was very raw. I knew nothing at all. I had pace and swing but I didn't know where to bow!

But thankfully my early stages were not too bad In fact I recorded my career-best in one day cricket in only the fourth championship of my career 6/26 at Sharjah against Sri Lanka in the 90 Austral Asia Cup

How exactly did Imran Khan influence you?

Imran was the world for us. He was such a great player that his gap can never be filled. We learned a lot from him what international cricket was all about of the pressures of celebrity hood, and of possibly every thing that comes along with lame.

So how do you handle fame and superstardom now?

Fame and superstardom are the off shoots of on field successes. They are a part of your cricketing lifestyle. Maybe in the beginning it was really difficult to deal with specially the huge crowds and their enthusiasm. Pakistan is a country where a hero today is made into a villain the very next day. Wasim Akram will tell you about how high the price of failure is in this country. And as I have also seen, there are pains of superstardom as well. I can say that there are lots and lots of mind, boggling surprises.

Your combination with Wasım Akram has been rated as one of the most potent and feared bowling combinations in recent times. How did you adjust to the void left by Akram's absence due to injury?

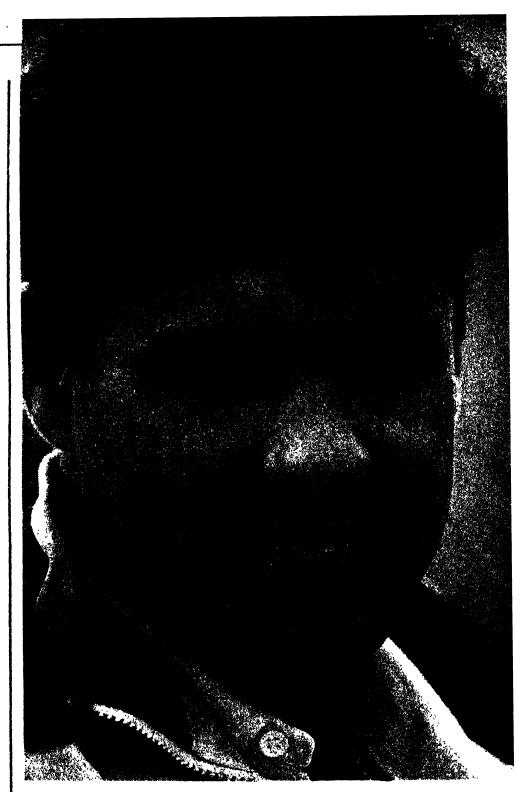
Yes certainly I did miss him. We have shared a lot including the secrets of the trade. The British Press when they saw us bowl during the New Zealand series and in the English series thought that we were one of the great fast bowling combinations of all time. We shared some fantastic moments on the field especially the English tour of 92 and the Caribbean tour of 93. We got some great wickets. That was exhilarating cricket.





Every game, if you notice, is a short life cycle in itself—the highs, the lows, the agonies, the ecstasies, the glories and the defeats. Each game teaches you such a lot!

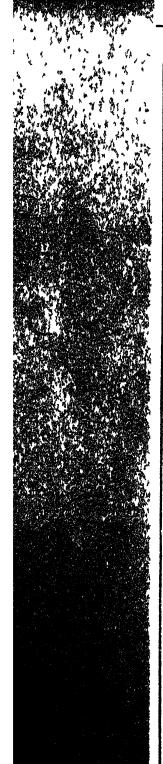




cricket for a considerable amount of time. While in my bowling action every bit of the pressure went into the back, his worries were the shoulder and the groin.

Looking back, how would you react to the controversies that came up during the '92 series in England?

But then injury forced us to stay away trom | 1 took 22 wickets in five Test matches. And what happened was quite insulting to us. We performed so well and then we got up in the morning to read in the newspapers that we had been branded as cheats. I mean, the umpires were there, the TV cameras were there, everyone was there, and after having taken 6/60, the headline was "CHEATS!" They were really bad losers! But then it took



MOINUDDIN HAMEED

Determination is Younis' middle name. Even after an injury layoff he's back firing on all cylinders some time for the storm to settle, and it didn't cool down before they clearly fathomed the knowledge about the swing of the old ball

Then there was the charges of marijuana smoking in the Caribbean tour in '93. What happened there?

It was simply a dense smoke without any fire The charges were labelled, based on the flimsiest of grounds Very funny! The police, in fact discovered some stubs in the sand (which had to be dug out) in a place where we had been previously That did not even constitute any circumstantial evidence There was simply no reason that we should do such a stupid act

How would you define the excitement and the pressures of an India-Pakistan match?

That's probably the ultimate test for any youngster—an India-Pakistan encounter It's the ultimate test for your nerves and stamina And the electric atmosphere infuses fire into the stomach of any individual out in the middle. The situation demands that you perform to the best of your ability. But this rivalry is just limited to the field. Off the field, as you see, both the teams share a very good rapport.

You are considered to be one of the toughest bowlers in the circuit. What exactly makes you tick in the middle?

It is the competitiveness it is living your dreams. I am constantly fighting a battle with myself, to prove myself in difficult circumstances. Never say-die is my philosophy. As long as you believe in that, you can improve. But when you lose the fire, you should stop playing. I hope to remain as intense as I am now for some years.

How would you explain the tremendous depth in Pakistan's bowling in recent times?

It is a great mental boost for me You have to go to the roots to get the full picture. We play on wickets which don't help the bowlers. So, we need to work harder, swing the ball more. We don't have much back-up facilities, yet there are a lot of guys snapping at your heels. You have to work hard. It is a healthy situation.

How difficult was it to become a fast bowler especially in a country like Pakistan?

Yes there were difficulties but there certainly was no lack of motivation. There have been great exponents of fast bowling in the past, as well. We have just carried on the tradition. Also, the Punjab province has produced fast bowlers in plenty. Maybe, that's because of the food and the climate.

Why did you choose to play for the Glamorgan county?

I'm originally a village boy Glamorgan attracted me greatly because of the relative quiet of Wales London was too busy and noisy for me There were offers from Surrey as well and Alec Stewart waged an impassioned insider's campaign But then again, the warmth of Glamorgan had a special appeal

You sort of startled your teammates by single-handedly winning the Championship for them. How important was the win?

It was simply marvellous But, no tournament can be won single handedly I bowled some 450 overs for them and took 68 championship victims

How do you compare this stint with your previous county experiences?

I played for Surrey for three seasons County cricket is always helpful because there are so many matches and one has enough chances to experiment and improve

What do you think you have achieved for your country?

Statistics will tell you (nearly 300 wickets in one-dayers and above 200 in Test matches) Playing for Pakistan has always brought out the best in me And I hope to keep on serving my country at this pace for some more years

You received a good amount of stick in the quarter-final of the '96 World Cup. Does that incident haunt you?

Well, as I said earlier, in a game like cricket you just can't win always and you learn only through your mistakes. It was just another bad game for us. And Ajay (Jadeja) was simply at his best!

What are your dreams and aspirations for Pakistan?

There are lots Maybe I haven t come to the point when I can start working on my dream projects, but certainly you'll get to know about them in a few years from now



BATTLE CRY

Mohun Bagan and F.C. Kochin are hot favourites for the cash-rich National League

BY DHIMAN SARKAR

NE failed to make the cut last year. The other wasn't even born. But new ones catch the eye just as quickly as old ones script turnarounds. Time, after all, is always on fast-forward in the world of sport. Therefore, FC Kochin became a household name from being an unknown entity within five months of its existence and Mohun Bagan that looked listless last season suddenly began to sparkle like a diamond.

This was the argument proferred by those (the president included) in the All India Football Federation (AIFF) who wanted the giants from Kochi and Calcutta in the ensuing second National League. Kochin they said at an emergency meeting in Calcutta last month won the Ernakulam League, and entered the final of all the tournaments they played (McDowell Cup, Scissors Cup and the Durand Cup). Winning the Durand in their maiden effort and that too with a comprehensive 3-1 win over Mohun Bagan further strengthend their case.

Similarly, Mohun Bagan were third in the Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup, champions in the Calcutta Super Division League, winners of the Independence Gold Cup and runners-up in the Durand. If they don't figure in the National League, it was argued, who will?

The argument won the day and despite the AIFF secretary Mr Kedar Nath Mour's reported reservations, it was decided that the two, and no other team, will be drafted into Indian football's blue riband competition, making it a 10-team affair.

This argument cannot be faulted. Kochin, after all, have at least five India regulars, over and above three Nigerian imports, in their star-studded line-up. Denying them will mean robbing the National League of a lot of sheen. And Mohun Bagan's inclusion too can be justified by saying that without the green-and-maroon jerseys the India-wide competition will lose lustre.

But then by the same logic shouldn't the AIFF have allowed Kochin to play the national club then this wasn't the first time an AIFF decision raised more questions then answers.

They may have the AIFF to thank for but on current form, it must be conceded that Mohun Bagan and FC Kochin go into the National League as hot favourites.

Last year's champions JCT, badly hit by a major exodus, are still trying to stit ch together a fighting outfit. Runners-up Churchill Brothers lost their canny Scottish coach Danny Mc Lennan after being comprehensively battered 0-6 by



Chime Okerie in action against a depleted Mohammedan Sporting team in the Super Division League. The Nigerian will not be available for the National League till January

championships? Granted, they hadn't done anything of note till then but if five of the club's players are the mainstays of the national team—one of them is also the India captain—then why should the club have to prove itself first?

There is no doubting the pedigree of I.M.Vijayan, now playing the best football of his career, Carlton Chapman, Jo Paul Anchery, Sumit Mukherjee and Raman Vijayan. But

Mohun Bagan and haven't looked the same team since.

East Bengal, placed third last year, promised much initially, showing a lot of fizz in winning the Calcutta season's curtain-raiser the McDowell Cup and then drubbing Mohun Bagan 4-1 in the Federation Cup semi-final. But after Salgaocar captain Bruno Coutinho rifled in two long-range winners in the Federation Cup final this year, East Bengal's fortunes

THE DIAMOND AND THE LEAGUE

AST year, they began with a Labang but faltered afterwards, the nadir being hit when they failed to qualify for the National League. This year, Mohum Bagan faltered after an initial flourish but then settled down to play an attacking brand of football which was refreshingly different from what other clubs have had to offer over the past few years.

And the man who deserves all the credit for it is vetetan coach Amai Dutta, Brought back to the Maidan more by default than by design - he was given the job after Syed Naycemuddin was appointed national coach - Dutta spared no effort to mould the team into a cohesive outfit. He introduced two-session training daily, ignoring the acerbic remarks of some of his contemporaries. He strove to improve the players' fitness through what he called "creative gymnastics". And most importantly, he dared to be different. In an era of defensive football, he chose to go on the attack.

Interestingly, what the "diamond system," (which Dutta insists is a "combination of many. systems") did was not too different from what Mohammed Habib started last year. A packed midfield which would move up in attack and fall back while defending meant that at least six players were involved in a buildup and seven would be in the defensive third to repulse threats to their citadel. It worked to a cinch with Chims and Dipendu upfront (ocassionally Abdul Khaleque and Roshan Perreira would also chip in) and Satyafit Chatterjee, Arnit Das and Basudeb Mondai manning the middle third.

Dutta gave everyone a chance, promoted rookies like R.P. Singh.



Amai Dutta: inculded Bagan into a columbia outile





Diponde Biores, the highest secret in the Super Lague

had the courage to replace seasoned Hemanta Dorá with Bibhas Ghosh after the 1-4 whipping. Most importantly, he managed to get the best out of even someone like Satyajit Chatterjee, now in his 12th year with Bagan. Winning, after all, has its own inertia and Dutta was shrewd enough to stoke it after having moulded the right combination.

Mohun Bagan's Achilles heel turned out to be their defence. Dutta's three-man defence line lacked co-ordination and it looked disjointed especially at the fag end of most matches, when the medios would be tiring. This has to be rectified.

Mohun Bagan began and ended their Super Division campaign against Eastern Railway but in the almost four month interregnum they were transformed from a team struggling to understand what its coach expected to a well-oiled machine.

They also displayed remarkable mental resilience in being able to overcome the 1-4 humiliation which saw Baichung Bhutia (EB) record an unprecedented hat-trick.

After Dipendu Biswas headed in, Bast Bengal claimed it was a disputed goal in the first-leg tie, Mohun Bagan never looked back. Former TFA ward Biswas, came good after a mediocre start to his career last year, scoring 13 goals in 12 matches and Bagan's goal-riot continued en route to their 24th league crown. As for the others, Mohammedan Sporting are now a spent force; East Bengal were depicted and the others didn't try anything new.

'Diamond' Dutta has returned to the Maidan with a bang but his real challenge will begin now.....

Dhimen Serker

took a turn for the worse.

At present, its roster is riddled by injuries and the players tired by non-stop football. The reserve bench looks anaemic and there seems to be too much dependence on the one trump card they have, Baichung Bhutia. In short, the fight seems to have gone out of the red-and-gold giants and it will take some doing on technical director P.K. Banerjee and coach Manoranjan Bhattacharjee's part to remedy things.

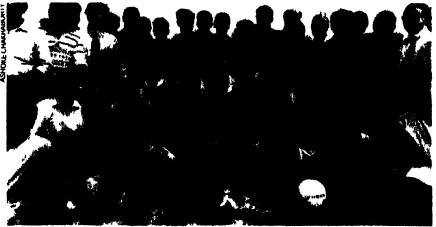
Dempo too are beset with internal problems and the club is now contemplating fielding a smattering of juniors in the National League.

Fellow Goans Salgaocar, however, look upbeat. They gel well as a team, have a good coach in T.K.Chathunni and an experienced technical director in the veteran Shanmugham.

Among the other teams, a

slowly but surely it is taking its toll on the players. Injuries are refusing to heal and football is becoming a monotonous exercise. A case in point is Basudeb Mondal. This wirv. . cerebral medio was a delight, both for the spectators and for the forwards who he would feed with precise passes, till even in the beginning of October. But in the Delhi double-bill, Basudeb looked jaded. And coach Amal Dutta's using him in almost every match Mohun Bagan play means that if the AIFF stick to the 45-match ceiling for its protected players, Basudeb will miss over half of the National League. The same holds for a lot of other Mohun Bagan players.

Mohun Bagan will be further disadvantaged by Chima Okerie's absence. The Nigerian's commitments with his Danish club Ikast means he



Super Division League champions Bagan took sweet revenge on FC Kechin in the DCM semis

rejuvenated Mahindra and Mahindra—flush with young players like Abhay Kumar, Satish Minz and Khaleed Jameel and seasoned coach Derryck D souza—look to be able to do away with their wooden-spooners' tag but are not exactly big league. Air India and Indian Bank too don't promise much beyond maintaining their middle-of-the-table form.

And that is why FC Kochin and Mohun Bagan are being labelled potential winners in the competition, scheduled to begin later this month.

However, both the teams must battle injury and latigue before they take on their opponents. Bagan have been playing non-stop this season and will be available not earlier than January. True, Dutta has moulded a very good reserve bench but the Dipendu Biswas-Chima Okerie combine (they scored 25 of the club's record 43 goals in the Super League) will surely be missed.

FC Kochin too are victims of too much football in too little time. But while they have had to play whichever meet came their way, simply to convince the AIFF that they deserve to be in the National League, Mohun Bagan put their footballers through a gruelling schedule to pump moolah into their empty coffers, like those of all other Calcutta glamour clubs, by poor finance management.



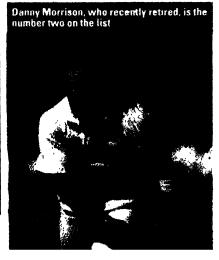
Courtney Waish has the highest number of ducks in Test cricket

N June 1997, Sri Lanka toured the West Indies where they played three one-day internationals and two Test matches. They would have levelled the series, had rain not come their way on the last day of the second Test match at St Vincent. On the fourth day of the second Test, the West Indian captain Courtney Walsh playing in his 92nd Test match, registered the 25th duck of his career and thus surpassed the previous record of 24 ducks created by New Zealander paceman Danny Morrison on April 28, 1996. Now it looks like that the new record of most ducks would stand for a longer period as no current Test player comes close to him.

If we go through Test cricket history right from the first-ever Test match between Australia and England at Melbourne in March. 1877, we find that the first-ever duck in Test cricket

BY FASIHULLLAH SIDDIQUI

was made in the same match and the player was Ed Gregory, who was caught by Andrew Greenwood off English skipper James Lillywhite. He was the elder brother of the then Australian captain Dave Gregory. Ed appeared in the only Test, scored 0, 11



and held one catch.

Chandrasekhar, one of the most successful leg-spinners in international cricket, was perhaps the perfect 'rabbit' in the role of a batsman. He took more wickets (242) than he scored runs (167) in Test matches. He was dismissed without scoring in 23 of his 41 completed Test innings. He was unfort unately handicapped due to his polio-stricken bowling arm not strong enough to hold the bat.

Australian spearhead Glenn McGrath can also be bracketed with Chandra as he took 136 wickets in 32 Test matches and has scored 102 runs in his 38 innings in which he remained not out on 12 occasions. But in the remaining 26, he was dismissed for a duck 14 times. This takes him ahead of Dilip Doshi, the compatriot of Chandrasekhar.

Doshi took 114 wickets in his 33

ABOUT DUCKS

A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Test matches and scored a mere 129 runs as a tail-ender. Of his 38 innings as a batsman, he remained not out on 10 occasions but in the remaining 28 he was dismissed for a duck on exactly half (14) the number of times. This

makes him one up on New Zealand's Bob Blair whose 28 completed Test innings had included 12 ducks

Percentage wise however
Chandrasekhai remains on top of the list of Most ducks in Tests with just

over 56 per cent of his completed innings. Morrison comes a close second. McGrath is at number three with Doshi just a few notches in the rear

COURTE SY THE CHICKETER FAKISTAN

ROLL OF HONOUR?

The following is the list showing the record of most ducks in the history of Test cricket

(Qu	elification	minimum 14 ducks)									
Os	inn	Batsmen	Team	M	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100e	50e	%age
25	122	C A Walsh	Wl	93	37	770	30 *	9 05			29 41
24	71	D K Morrison	N7	48	26	379	42	8 42	-	_	53 33
23	80	B S Chandrasekhar	Ind	58	39	167	22	4 07			56 09
20	101	B S Bedi	Ind	67	28	656	50*	8 98		1	27 63
19	112	Wasım Barı	Pak	81	26	1366	85	15 88	-	6	22 09
19	116	D L Underwood	Eng	86	35	937	45*	11 56			23 45
17	68	J Garnei	WI	58	14	672	60	12 44		1	31 48
17	71	J A Snow	Fng	49	14	772	73	13 54		2	29 82
17	133	T G Evans	Fng	91	14	2439	104	20 49	2	8	14 28
17		Devon Malcolm	Eng	40	18	237	29	8 84			42 50
, 16	96	J E Fmburky	Eng	64	20	1713	75	22 53	-	10	21 05
16	99	K R Rutherford	NZ	56	8	2465	107*	27 08	3	18	17 58
16	138	M W Gatting	Eng	79	14	4409	207	35 55	10	21	12 90
16	184	R N Kapıl Dev	Ind	131	15	5248	163	31 05	8	27	9 46
16	190	D C Boon	Aus	107	20	7422	200	43 65	21	32	9 41
15	76	M A Holding	WI	60	10	910	73	13 78		6	22 72
15	84	E A S Prasanna	ind	49	20	735	37	11 48		-	23 43
15	89	G D McKenzie	Aus	60	10	945	76	12 27		2	19 48
15	109	L R Gibbs	WI	79	39	488	25	6 97			21 42
15	107	M D Marshall	WI	81	11	1808	92	18 83	****	10	15 62
15	185	D B Vengsarkar	Ind	116	22	6868	166	42 13	17	35	9.20
15	102	C F 1 Ambrose	WI	72	22	1064	553	21 28	-	1	1875
15	143	I A Healy	Aus	94	19	3470	161*	27 89	3	18	12 09
15	148	S R Waugh	Aus	95	28	5960	200	49 66	14	34	12 50
14	38	D R Doshi	lnd	33	10	129	20	4 60			50 00
14	58	S Ramadhın	WI	43	14	36 1	44	8 20	-	-	31 81
14	58	R M Hogg	Aus	38	13	439	52	9.75	***	1	31 11
14		J R Thomson	Aus	51	20	679	49	12 81	-		26 41
14		D W Randall	Eng	47	5	2470	174	33 37	7	12	18 91
14	79	P Roy	Ind	43	4	2442	173	32 56	5	9	18 66
14	161	IT Botham	Eng	102	6	5200	208	33 54	14	22	8 97
14	48	G D McGrath	Aus	34	13	106	24	3 92			51 85
Me	ret ducks fo	or other teams									
11	73	R A McLean	SA	40	3	2120	142	30.28	5	10	15 71
11	121	A Ranatunga	SL	73	.7	4034	135*	35 38	4	28	9 64
6	38	G W Flower	Zım	22	1	1175	210*	31 75	2	6	16 21
6	22	H H Streak	Zim	15	5	225	53	13 23	-	š	28 52

%age=Percentage of ducks in completed Test innings Note: All figures are correct up to August 31, 1997

ELLING tickets and TV rights of the world chess championships have always been very difficult. That's because there is no guarantee that the two players would not disappoint the audience (and the sponsors) by a quick, uneventful draw, which chess correspondents call a 'Grandmaster decision'.

Kasparov, who first managed to sell TV rights of his match against Anand in 1995, realised the need to avoid quick draws and decided to introduce an ingenious plan. According to the plan, part of the prize fund would be allotted to individual games. Each game would carry some prize money. say about \$2,000. The winner would take all, but if the match was drawn, the amount would be added to the next game. The next game thus would have prize money worth \$4,000. Until a game is decided, the amount would go on accruing. Finally, the one who

breaks the series of draws can claim. the total amount. Kasparov thought, this would make matches more competitive, as each draw would make the next game more exciting.

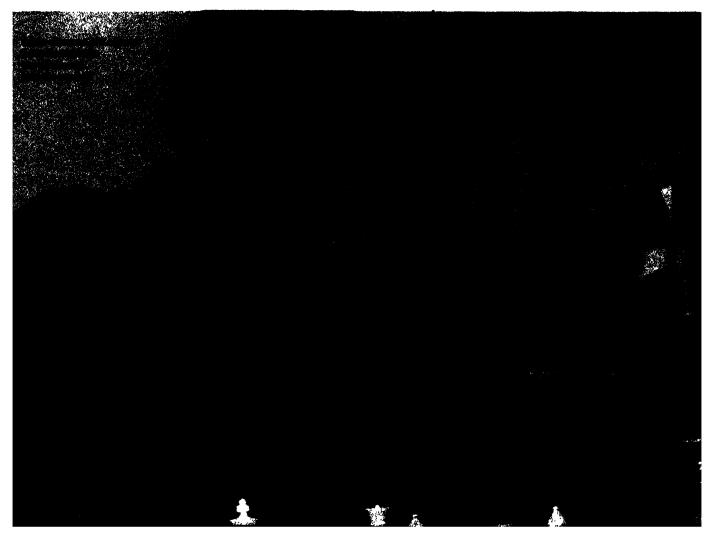
It was indeed a good idea to make chess more attractive to spectators, but FIDE—the world chess federation—has gone many steps ahead by changing altogether the format of the world chess championships. Hitherto, the world championships cycle comprised of an initial selection trial in the league format, followed by head to head matches (called the Candidates Matches) between the qualifiers, leading to the selection of a candidate who met the reigning world champion in the final match, of no less than 20 games. The preceding matches varied in length, from 8 to 12 | Florencio Campomanes tried to woo

games, depending on the round: the higher the round, the longer the matches.

This system had two problems: first, the problem of quick draws which rendered the matches less exciting to followers; TV rights were also difficult to sell, and hence without coverage, it was less attractive to sponsors. Secondly, the system was so protracted, that it ended up being expensive.

Things became acute when Kasparov, who had established himself as the best ever, moved out of FIDE and formed the Professional Chess Association (PCA), which introduced its independent world championships cycle. The FIDE cycle was badly affected by this as the sponsors were clearly not interested in sponsoring any world championship without Kasparov.

Former FIDE president Mr



Kasparov back. However, due to internal opposition, this move to unite FIDE and PCA failed. Campomanes was forced to step down. The next FIDE president, Mr Kirsan Iljumzhinov, a wealthy businessman and the President of Kalmykia, a republic belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States, steadied the troubled ship with his money and enterprising ideas. He began to prove his credibility by holding a couple of world championships and a Chess Olympiad in Kalmykia within a year of his tenure.

But what he is about to introduce is even more sensational. Mr. Iljumzhinov, identifying the difficulties in the existing format of the world championships, decided to introduce an altogether new format: one that would be inexpensive and, at the same time, more attractive. Mr Stewart Reuben, the president of the

PRIZE SCHEDULE

Rd 1 losers: 34 x \$6,000:	\$204,000
Md 2 leserii 31 x \$12,000:	\$372,000
Rd 3 losers: 16 x \$24,000:	\$384,000
#d 4 losers: - 8 x \$48,000:	\$384,000
Rd 5 losers: 4 x \$96,000:	\$384,000
Rd 6 losers: 2 x \$192,000:	\$384,000
Rd 7 losers: 2 x \$375,000:	\$750,000
Rd # Joser : 1 x \$768,000:	\$768,000
Rd 8 winner:1 x \$1,370,000:	\$1,370,000

British Chess Federation and a very able organiser, was engaged to prepare the blueprint of the new world championship. (For new format details, see box).

This new format world championship will be held in three

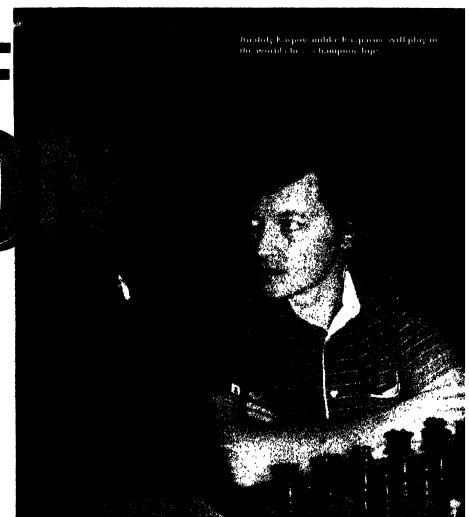
venues between December 8 and January 9, 1998. Rounds 1-6 will be held in Gromingen, The Netherlands between December 8 and 25, the semi-finals in Elista, Kalmykia between December 26-31 and the finals at the FIDE headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland between January 1-9. It will carry a prize fund of US \$5 million, of which the winner takes \$1.37 million and the runner-up, \$768,000.

All the players excepting Kasparov, Zsusa Polgar and Gata Kamsky have sent in their consent. It is unlikely that those who have not yet, would change their minds. While Polgar and Kamsky have retired, Kasparov will not play for personal reasons. He is opposed to the entire idea. So, in their absence, others would play, or some alterations will be made to the said scheme.

One player from the reserve list drawn on the basis of highest average

VGE OF CJTO

The world chess championships have always been an expensive and unattractive process. The result: sponsors were always hard to come by. But the new FIDE President is all set to tackle the problems



rating from the Rating Lists of January and July 1997, will replace Polgar, while Kamsky's place shall be taken by Valery Salov, the loser of the last Candidates semi-final match.

Kasparov's absence shall turn round 7 into a Candidate selection match, the winner of which will play Karpov in round 8. Thus Karpov is allowed the grotesque advantage of joining in the finals while his opponent will have played 5-7 matches before.

This format is patently more tenable financially, than the previous one. Every single day will produce exciting games in plenty. Hence, selling TV rights and securing sponsorship for it will be easier, but it is doubtful whether the system will effectively determine the strongest chess player.

The basic defect of the system is the

short length of the matches: two games are clearly insufficient. It is impossible to determine the bare minimum theoretically, but anyhow, two games are unlikely to deliver the perfect result. Even six games are insufficient for the final. Besides, the quick-play tie-breakers make the system even more suspect, for it will produce bad performances.

The biggest anomaly of the system

World champion Kasparov will not participate in the FIDE world championships due to personal reasons



THE NEW-LOOK CHAMPIONSHIP

Though confusing at times the new format is surely innovative

THE new system has seen the elimination of the matches entirely and has been replaced with a 99-player knock-out tournament—the first of its kind in the history of the sport. However, it is quite complicated as the players enter in different rounds. Round 1 shall consist of 68 players composed of 48 zonal qualifiers (the chess playing countries are divided into different zones and each zone has its zonal selection tournament), five world junior champions of 1993-97, women's world champion Zsusa Polgar, two from the host country, and 12 nominated by the World Championship Committee as approved by the Presidential Board.

There will be 62 players in round 2: the 34 winners of round 1, five losers of round 2 and three of the previous Candidates matches (1994-95), 18 top rated players from the FIDE rating list of January and July 1994/95, and the top 5 juniors of the rating list of January and July 1995/96.

The 31 winners of round 2 shall be joined by Grandmaster Gata Kamsky, the candidate of the last FIDE world championships cycle, making the total number of players of round 3, at 32. Rounds 3-6 shall trim down this pack to 4, who in round 7 may be joined by Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov—the two world champions from the PCAs and FIDE cycles. Round 8 then shall be the final determining of the new world champion.

Round 1-7, shall be played in 2-game matches between the players, and lies broken by half an hour games in sets of 2. The matches are always in a couple or even number to allow each player an equal number of game(s) with black and white pieces. The deciding round 8, shall be of 6 games.

was the inclusion of Kasparov and Karpov in round 7 as the two world champions, while the runners-ups, Kamsky and Anand will be induced in different rounds. While Kamsky has been allowed the privilege of entering in round 3 as the FIDE World Championships runner-up, Anand has been entered in round 2, as the loser of rounds 2 and 3 of the previous Candidates matches. His coming second to Kasparov in the PCA world championship was being clearly ignored though Kasparov's winning it offered him equal privilege as Karpov. the FIDE world champion.

Besides, the players will have to play too many matches in a very short period of merely a month. A player entering in round 1 will have to play seven 2-game matches and one 6-game match, making a total of 20 games, if he or she qualifies for the entire phase.

Added to this are the 2-game tie-breakers, which given the brief length of the matches will presumably occur at least half the time, making it too strenuous. However, the advantage of this system is that no player can prepare himself against any particular adversary, the significance of which has repeatedly been seen, most recently in the Anand-Kasparov match in New York in 1995. This world championship will require of a player immense stamina and a more general preparation, for it would allow no scope to prepare for and take advantage of a particular adversary's drawbacks.

This system, in spite of its faults, is likely to operate for the next couple of decades. There may be some alterations, but the structure would remain essentially the same -even if it means bidding adieu to Kasparov forever. Mr. Iljumzhinov has secured sponsorship for the next ten editions of the world championships for a total of \$50 million, and ten women's world championships for \$5 million. Mr. Iljumzhinov plans to provide from a trust fund he is setting up for this purpose in Switzerland, Mr Stewart Reuben says," This has assured Mr.Iljumzhinov of the office of FIDE president for perpetuity".



BLACK ATTACK

Since the beginning of this century one team has dominated world rugby, like no other team or country has. Yes, we are talking about the New Zealand national team, also known as the All Blacks

FROM ANDY O'BRIEN, PERTH

N rugby, fear has a colour. Just say the words 'All Black' and even the most seasoned international will experience shivers down their spine. The New Zealand national team's dominance of world rugby over the last few decades has few parallels in the sporting world, which is why a win against them, rare as it is, feels so good. To beat the Blacks. Now there's a thing? How does one qualify the achievement of trouncing the world's greatest rugby team?

Firstly, let's get this straight, the All Blacks are not just a rugby team, they're a dynasty, an empire and a religious movement all rolled into one. They may not win Test matches or a Series, yet they have dominated decades of the game's history.

Standing behind the nation's first XV are three million Kiwis, each convinced that entry to paradise can only be achieved by slipping on that famous black jersey with the silver fent. "In my view there has never been a truly great All Black that hasn't felt a genuine pride in wearing the fem



They'll psyche you out! The hakks dence by the All Blacks are an essential part of their warm up

and know some kind of inner stirring everytime he pulled the jersey over his head," says former All Black captain Wilson Whineray.

Anyone who thinks that such values were exclusive to the old ways and days of amateur rugby is wide off

the mark. Two years into the age of professionalism, New Zealand's dominance has soared to such an altitude, that the rest of the world can only hope the Blacks succumb to oxygen starvation. The professional era's accelerated representative

itinerary may be taxing the resources of other unions, but for New Zealand rugby it has served only to reveal the seemingly limitless resources of talent. The best rugby side in the world? That's easy: The All Blacks. The second best side in the world? The Auckland Blues.

After a century of representative rugby, New Zealand now seems more unassailable than ever. The only contest is the scramble for the minor placings. Like all other empires, this one wasn't built in a day.

The place: Parked in their remote corner of the planet, the Kiwis would have gone unnoticed by the rest of the world if it wasn't for rugby. The quality of their game has been a declaration of their very existence.

The people: Anglo-Celt and Maori, Pakeha and Polynesian; the warrior spirit of the native New Zealander was well suited to rugby's balance of aggression and athleticism. They were taught the game by dour types from the highland regiments—first in and last out of all the colonial outposts, when Britain had an empire. The stoical Scots fought the natives in the Maori Wars, farmed...and then played rugby, often with former enemies as their teammates. Rugby not only bound native and colonist, it linked the rural outposts, provincial towns and fishing villages that dotted both hill-side and coastline of the strange, Dutch-named land of sheep, running gutters and gutted vowels. Rugby conquered New Zealand and then New Zealand rugby set out to conquer the world.

Unlike in other countries, there was no elitist catch attached to their rugby; if you were strong, you played. Farmers, meat-workers, bank clerks, and future captains of industry....all were welcome. Contrastingly, in the rest of the world, rugby's horizons were constrained by the insular world of private schooling. No question which environment provided tougher, more resourceful competitors. In New Zealand, rugby was a statement of manhood: elsewhere, it was more about manners.



Strategy has always been on top of the All Black agenda and very often they have successfully plotted the fall of their opponents

From August 15, 1903, (when they played their first full-scale international), the All Blacks have dominated every era of the game, and the rare defeats only deepened their resolve to do better. Other countries enjoyed momentary fame and promptly forgot how they achieved it, but New Zealand built its rugby knowledge layer upon layer, as if it were a revered academic discipline. With time, the respect for tradition, unity and pursuit of excellence created a culture unmatched by any international movement in football except perhaps only by Brazil in soccer.

Other countries spread their gifted athletes across a broad range of pursuits. In Australia footballers are divided between four codes. Across the Tasman, there is no such confusion. Not only that, nobody turns their back on the prospect of a Black jersey for something as trivial as running the 400 metres at the Olympics.

Long before the game became a cash commodity, New Zealand adapted the professional standards alien to most amateur sports. Not for them, the sentimentality of the Welsh or the Australians who speak romantically about 'glorious defeats' The Blacks are not overly ruthless, they simply don't let sentiment get in the way of victory.

Sledgehammer or sleight of hand, for the All Blacks there is just one basic tactic; the end usually always justifies the means. It is said that they are unmatched at conceding a penalty in a difficult-to-convert position as a way of diffusing sustained pressure on their goal-line. They are also handy at the art of winning one when it is most needed.

It is said that if the All Blacks were in a position Greg Chappell found himself in during that infamous under-arm bowling incident against New Zealand then they would do





The show goes on. After an old regime hangs up their jersies, stars like Joneh Lomu will ensure that the All Blacks stay at the top

exactly what the Australian cricket captain had done.

But cheating and thuggery are not part of the New Zealand rugby credo.

Former international referee Sandy McNeill of Australia has referred them on several occasions around the world. He has nothing but respect for their on-field behaviour. Nobody can match their discipline, he says, and they appoint captains who are born leaders. McNeill has refereed teams led by present captain Sean



Shelford and found that when the All Blacks are playing there is only one skipper. not 15.

This is the era of the Super-12s and it has offered the world a more protracted glimpse of New Zealand's arsenal. Before, the only gauge of their true strength occurred when the All Blacks set sail once a year to sink mother opponent. Nobody knew what was below the surface of the Black Armada.

The Super 12 competition has given the rest of the rugby world a glimpse of the awful truth. As a reality-check its nough to make rival coaches drop heir clipboards in fright. It works like

his: Picture New Zealand rugby as a viramid. At the pinnacle are the All Blacks. Everything below that is only nere to serve the cause of the game. No place is this better illustrated than in New Zealand's one-for-all and all-for-one pact between the provincial and national sides. The oaches of the five New Zealand Super 2 sides are committed to playing a tyle of rugby decreed by All Black oach John Hart. Players are

They are the most feared and loathed rugby outfits in the world, but for an All Black victory and pride is what matters

distributed from the stronger to the weaker Super 12 sides on a basis that works in the best interest of the All Black cause. A state coach will never play a prospective All Black trialist out of position to serve the interest of his provincial side. It ensures that the system keeps producing an unbroken chain of ready-made, quality tested All Blacks. It is said that if you watch replays of an All Black match, win or lose, you can almost count the mistakes they make on the fingers of one hand. After Australia took out the 1991 World Cup, the All Blacks took their lessons back to their great rugby academics to reemerge stronger and smarter.

Ditto for the 1995 World Cup final loss to South Africa. Since then the Blacks have remorselessly reasserted their right to the number one position. While other nations were agonising over the games new rules,

the Kiwis adapted to the changes, distributed the knowledge among their Super 12 "family" and started running with their fast rucking, ball-retaining, all pressure brand of rugby.

The 'All Blacks' contemporary reign was achieved with a nucleus of six senior players, each with more than 35 Test caps: Ian Jones, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Jones, Frank Bunce and the running Brookes—Zinzan and Robin. Their imminent departure offers false hope to lesser nations. Surely no country could adequately replace such players? But that's what so impressive about the All Blacks. When the big six hang up their boots, the dynasty will continue through the likes of Jonah Lomu, Christen Cullen and Andrew Blowers.

No wonder they say that the first ambition of any young rugby player is to play for their country. In world rugby any supporter always supports two sides, his own national team and the All Blacks, for their magic transcends all barriers of class and culture.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS



Author V.K.Pahuja displays the book surrounded by his family

TITLE: SWIMMING STATISTICAL BULLETIN AUTHOR: V.K.PAHUJA PUBLISHER: J.K.PRINTERS PAGES: 250 PRICE: Rs.50

'N India, the lackadaisical attitude of many National Sports Federations has led to a paucity of easily available statistical material. In some cases, this lacuna is rectified by some enterprising, aficianados of the sport. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) does not maintain regular statistics. Football fans rely on the Durand Annual or individual statisticians for information. Similarly, in hockey, the role of the IHF is performed by the Nehru Hockey tournament Society's annual publication. In swimming, it is the zealous work of coach cum statistician V.K. Pahuja that records are being tabulated.

He has ploughed a lone furrow for nearly two decades. His unique Swimming Statistical Bulletin, is a labour of love. Information is painstakingly collected, compiled and recorded throughout the year. Pahuja, India's only official swimming statistician has done yeoman service in maintaining records.

The 17th issue of the Swimming Statistical Bulletin was released at the Talkatora Swimming Pool Complex by Mr Jayasingha, deputy high commissioner of Sri Lanka. The 250 page bulletin, the only one in the country, contains all national and international records. There are also results of all major swimming competitions in India and abroad. It is a mobile reference book, a ready reckoner for fans, coaches and journalists alike.

It is not just a bulletin but an almanac on swimming. This issue contains useful articles about eminent people in Indian swimming. There is an obituary of T. G. Sendhill of Tamil

Nadu, a 34-year-old swimming coach and time-keeper who died prematurely this year at Chennai due to a sudden heart attack. He had represented India in the junior world waterpolo championships in 1981 and in the India-Bangladesh-Sri Lanka triangular series. There is also moving tribute to the legendary long distance swimmer Mihir Sen who died at the age of 67 after a protracted illness in June 1997.

There is a brief tribute to the 75-year-old Mr O.P.Sehgal, a dedicated qualified technical official who is still hyperactive in every meet in Delhi. There are also informative write-ups on some promising coache like Tapan Kumar Panigrahi who is working at the NSTC Centre, at Sanjeevan Vidhyalaya, Panchgarhi, Maharashtra, who went to Germany for advanced training. He was also coach in charge for the 10th Asia-Pacific age-group swimming and diving championships at Pusan, Sout Korea, at which India won seven medals.

Other informative articles are on Goa and their specialisation in diving and Karnataka's rise as a swimming power, a brief description of the majestic Talkatora swimming pool and a summary of international results. There are also photographs of all leading Indian swimmers. The quality of the reproduction of these photographs needs to be improved.

The best section is where all the State Championship and National records are compiled. The records in all the age-group meets, Inter-University, National Games, Al India Police Aquatic Meet, National Championships, SAG Games, SAF swimming Championships. Asia-Pacific age-group meet, Asian Games, Olympic and World records are listed. There is also an excellent reference section on the participation of Indian swimmers in all international meets from 1951 onwards. A truly comprehensive book, for which Pahuja deserves plaudits for his perseverance and dedication.

Novy Kapadia



QUESTIONS

In which country was the Cricket Fund 2000, a programme to improve the standard of the game, launched in '95?

I was once the U.S **L** . Secretary of State, who later became the Governor General of the Phillipines, was an ardent sportsman. But I am more famous for my contribution to the world of tennis. Who am I?

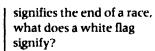
We observe our national sports day on the 29th of August every year. Whose birthday do we celebrate on that day?

How many players 4. are there in an Australian Rules Football team?

5 • Each sport has got a • patron saint. St. Ludwina is considered to be the patron saint of which sport?

O . chequered flag

In auto-racing, if a



A very famous Hollywood actor once tried a hand in the professional boxing ring under the name Marty O' Brien. Who am I?

8 • Patterson had the Boxer Floyd nickname 'Rabbit'. Who gave him the nickname?

This baseball term • coined by a sports scribe Charlie Dryden is now commonly used in cricketing parlance. What is the term?

This U. S Olympic 10 • gold medallist in the long jump always kept a teddy bear nearby whenever he had to perform. Who was this athlete?

Sukhinder Kaur, • the first woman mayor of Indian origin in New Zealand, is married to a world class batsman who once held the world record for the highest one-day international score? Who is he?



ANSWERS

THIS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPILED BY



DEVDAS KRISHNAN. KADAVIL HOUSE, ANNANAD P.O, THRISSUR (DIST), KERALA PIN---680 324

All answers are sent in by the contributor. Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.



TOP DRAW

After a few uncertain moments, JACQUES VILLENEUE emerges as the Formula One World Champion

PEED—now that is something the new Formula One champion Jacques Villeneuve doesn't particularly like. He'd rather play the piano or the guitar to his girlfriend Sandrine in the privacy of his home in Monaco. Or, he'd rather play computer games, listen to music, read, eat good food, roller blade or do alpine skiing.

Jacques Villeneuve is a rather down-to-earth bloke. As he clarified at the beginning of the '97 season, "I don't only live for motor racing and I'm conscious there is more to life. I like to spend time with my girlfriend, go out with friends to good restaurants and listen to music. Money has never been the most important thing to me. I've never thought, money, money, money. It's nice but I'm not extravagant. I like computers but I don't have a collection of gold watches. I don't have expensive tastes."

Very unconventional when you consider the fact the most F1 drivers lead a fast, jet setting life which has ample doses of women, private jets, exotic boats and powerful motor cars. But then Villeneuve is not your conventional Formula One driver. In fact, the 26-year-old Canadian does not even look like one.

Villeneuve, with his steel-rimmed glasses, Mickey-Mouse T-shirts, lumberjack-style shirts and baggy jeans could actually pass off as a college student rather than a millionaire Formula One driver. In the most dangerous and glamorous of world championship sport, Villeneuve is more of a misfit where the top drivers who are always at their

BY K.O.JACOB

elegant best, rub shoulders with captains of industry, governments, and even royalty. One team owner before the start of the '97 season is said to have remarked that if Villeneuve was to ever join his team, the first persuade Jacques Villeneuve to change his style. In fact, Williams had to accede to Villeneuve's request for a clause in his contract which allowed him to pursue a hobby, skiing—during the pre-season training regime. Skiing, specially Villeneuve style, could be dangerous, but Williams had to give in to his star



Villeneuve with girffriend Sandrine: the love of his life

thing he would do was to fit Villeneuve in a suit and tie.

Even Frank Williams considered by many to be the most uncompromising team owner in Formula One could not

driver's request, to keep him happy and content, in spite of the underlying danger.

Tackling danger and speed comes naturally to Villeneuve. Blame it on his pedigree, his genes. His father, the legendary Gilles Villeneuve was a



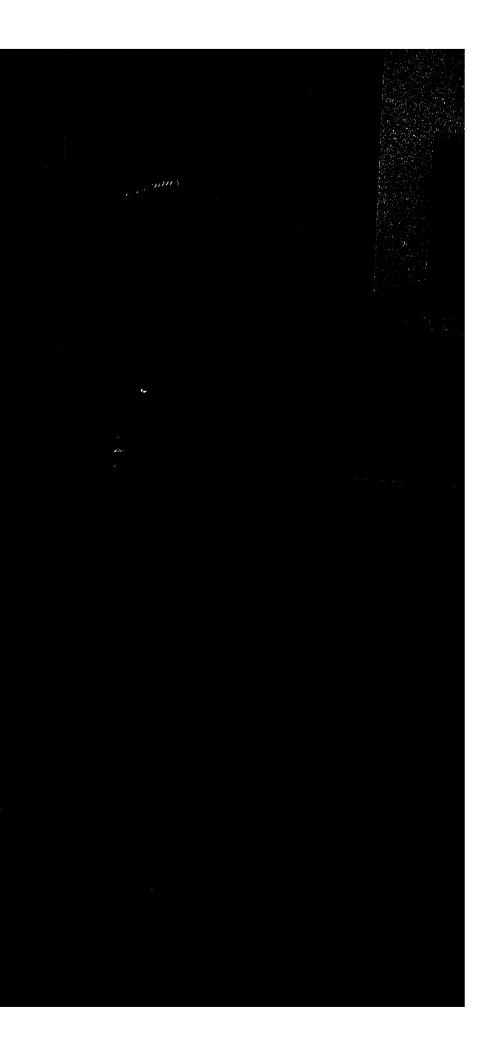
grand prix folk hero who died practising for the '82 Belgian Grand Prix at Zolder. Jacques then was only eleven years of age. Even though Villeneuve does not particularly care for speed or danger, how could he battle it when it was right there in his blood? Right from his childhood the adventurous streak was very evident.

Recalling the days when he attended school at Villars in Switzerland, Villeneuve said, "I was never serious enough about skiing and I did not train hard enough. I got into downhill, some slalom and some giant slalom, but I really liked getting into rocks, jumping as high as possible - just going nuts. I would challenge my friends at school to everything and anything, even if I hadn't a clue of what I was doing. I would not be happy unless I was performing in some way or the other. Most of the time it was on skis trying to go faster, wilder and crazier than the next guy. I always knew I would end up racing cars."

Indeed, racing cars is where
Villeneuve has excelled and, going by
the looks of it, will continue to do so in
the near future. Villeneuve started his
motor racing in Italy, moved to Japan
in 1993 to compete in the Formula
Three Championships. Later, he
joined the Formula One
Championships, having already won
the World IndyCar Championship.
That he would partner Damon Hill
who was tipped to be the champion,
that he would be racing for the best F1
outfit, did not put any pressure on
Villeneuve.

While the world was wondering as to what Frank Williams saw in Villeneuve, the new kid served notice by starting his first GP at pole position and even led the eventual winner Hill till the last five laps when he had to slow down with oil pressure problems. He finished the season in second place to the eventual champion, teammate Damon Hill. Villeneuve had served proof that he meant business and a real serious one at that.

Gunning for glory: Heinz Harald Frentzen finished third in his first year with Williams





People however were not impressed.

How, they argued, can you portray an upstart, a relative novice to the intricacies of Formula One as a potential world champion? Especially when you had a certain Mr. Michael Schumacher, already a double world champion, and smarting from the championship loss of 1996, just raring to go. 1996, they argued, was not too good a year for Schumacher because he had just moved to Ferrari and also because the car was not really fine-tuned to his specification.

1997, they insisted, would be different. The engineers at Ferrari's headquarters at Modena in Italy were working overtime to custom-make a car for Schumacher —a car that would match the best in the business. These were the same people who insisted that it was the FW18 that won the World Championships and not Damon Hill in 1996.

Schumacher started the season

Michael Schumacher celebrates his 100th GP while Ferrari director Jean Todt (extreme right) looks on. In the end, however, there was not much to celebrate

with a flourish. finishing second in the Australian GP, to surprise winner David Coulthard. It was also a race that saw Villeneuve go out of the race in the very first lap after a collision with the Ferrari of Eddic Irvine and the Sauber of Johnny Herbert. It also saw Villeneuve's teammate Heinz-Hārald Frentzen retiring on lap 55 with failed brakes.

The sceptics were thrilled.

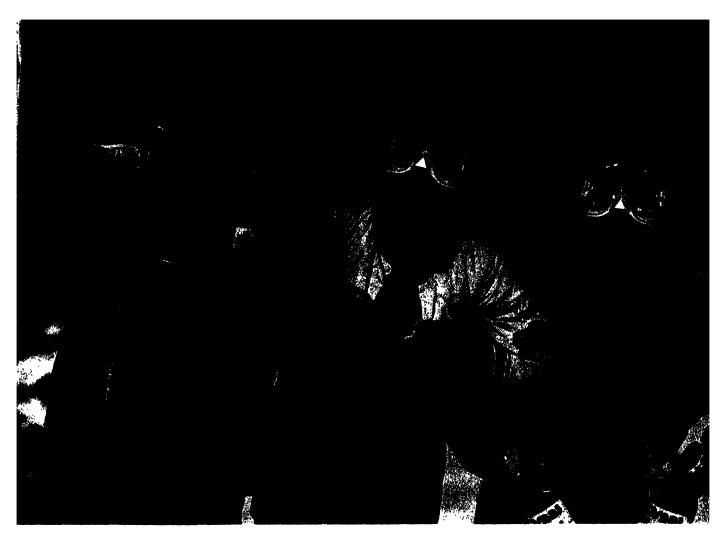
Villeneuve did not fret or fume. His brief as the lead driver of team Williams Renault from his boss was very crisp: "Win me the Drivers' and the Constructors Championship yet again." Villeneuve went back to the basics and the drawing board after his first race fiasco and came up trumps in the second GP at Brazil where he finished first and Schumacher fifth.

Things were just about hotting up.

The next 15 races saw some good racing with the results going either way. It saw Villeneuve coming first in eight races while Schumacher got 10 points in only five races. Both Schumacher and Villeneuve exited early in four races. Schumacher managed three second placings this year while Villeneuve got none. When the final GP began at Jerez, both drivers stood on a more or less even footing

Schumacher led the points tally by one point and he only had to finish ahead of Villemeuve to win himself the third Drivers' Championship of his career. But he had to reckon with Villeneuve, who was bent on winning his first Drivers' and fulfill his brief for Williams.

Schumacher was in the lead till the middle of the race when Villeneuve, in a classic manoeuvre, overtook Schumacher from the inside when



they were negotiating a curve. Schumacher reacted very late (probably he saw the Williams' blue car a fraction too late in his mirror) and all he could do was steer to his right, collide into Villeneuve and spin out into the gravel. Exit Ferrari and Schumacher.

Villenuve, who saw his maiden Drivers' Championship dream coming alive, realised that he just needed to finish in the first six now to win it. He led till the final lap at Jerez and then conceded his position to Mikka Hakkinen, who went on to win his first Formula One race. Hakkinen's teammate David Coulthard was also given the go-ahead by Villeneuve who finished third. It was enough.

Villeneuve had followed the brief of his team-boss to the final word. He got himself his first world Drivers' Championship and got Williams their eighth Constructors' Championship. Schumacher, whose brief was to get

Skiing is another passion of Villeneuve and here he unwinds with a couple of friends

Ferrari the Constructors' Championship, which they last won in 1983, succeeded only in antagonising many drivers and team owners with his intentional ramming into Villeneuve.

Villeneuve and even Damon Hill did not mince words and called for action from the FIA which had initially said that it was a 'driving accident', thus exonerating Schumacher. Scathing criticism from all quarters led the FIA to review their stand and call for an extraordinary meeting with Schumacher to explain his action, which the Ferrari driver admitted was an "error"

The year could not have finished better for Frank Williams, who along with his technical director Patrick Head, was facing charges of manslaughter in court in Imola for Ayrton Senna's death. Even his second driver Heinz Harald Frentzen managed a first, two second placings and four third placings and secured for himself the third spot in the Drivers' Championship.

1998 could well see some good racing with quite a few surprises in store. With Renault all set to move out from F1 racing (they have been in motor sports since the beginning of the century), Williams suddenly looks like a beatable team. The introduction of grooved tyres (which drew a lot of flak from the leading drivers), could see some calculated driving from the pros. The introduction of either Malaysia or South Korea into the Formula One circuit will see the racing season getting extended giving both teams and drivers one more chance to prove themselves.

All in all, Formula One promises to be in 1998 what it always was: predictably unpredictable.

CRICKET LISTS

Interesting trivia and little known facts about cricketers and the game in general BY BARRY O'BRIEN & MUDAR PATHERYA

IMRAN KHAN ON IMRAN KHAN

1. 'I grew up with a complex about being ugly'.

2.'I would like my wife to be of an independent mind: I relate to people with some depth in them and want to see my wife using her brains, rather than working in the kitchen'.

3.'I am not a naturally confident person'.

4. Tam concerned that the countries of the Third World are getting poorer with no sign of immediate help'.

5. I am not motivated by money'.

6. 'Arre, I'm a paagal (mad) Pathan...'

7.'Basically, I'm an introvert'.

8.'I'm a very simple man'.

FIVE CONFESSIONS OF SANATH JAYASURIYA

1.'At practice, I never play any attacking shots'.

2.'I love to drive my Audi A4. All I have to do is fill petrol and drive'.

3. Tam a Buddhist and sincerely believe that there is some help for me from some spiritual source'.

4.'I know that I am calm and can

meditate thanks to my Buddhist belief and the philosophy of Zen'.

5. What I admire most about a woman is her inner beauty which comes out through her expressions'.

FOUR CRICKETERS WITH REGRETS

1.Sunil Gavaskar—'The only thing that will bother me when I hang up my boots is that I have not scored a

Imran Khan with his wife Jemima and son Suleiman Isa



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Srikkanth now runs a successful export business in electrical and leather goods in Chennai

100 in Sri Lanka'

2.Brian McMillan—'Maybe I should have stuck to playing rugby, judging by the salaries rugby players are earning these days.'

3. South African opener Barry Richards laments on missing out on international cricket during the years of apartheid — 'History will look at us as a lost generation.'

4.Sir Don Bradman—'I am sorry that I made a duck (in my last Test innings), and I would have been glad if I had only made those four runs so I could finish with an average (in first class cricket) of a hundred.'

ELEVEN PECULIAR THINGS WORN BY CRICKETERS

1. Desmond Haynes used to wear a gold chain with "Love, Life, Laugh" engraved on it.

2.Viv Richards' good luck charm was a gold chain with a piece of black coral—shaped like a man's head—attached to it.

3.West Indian fast bowler Wes Hall was never seen without a crucifix

dangling round his neck.

4. Mohinder Amarnath and Alan

Knott always carried a red handkerchief on their person while playing.

5.Greg Chappell always wore a copper bracelet to ensure that he never got arthritis.

6.F.C. de Saram was imprisoned in 1962 for conspiring to overthrow the government in Sri Lanka. When Colin Cowdrey and Billy Griffith visited him in his prison cell some years later, he was found wearing—of all things—a Harlequin tie.

7.A number of contemporary cricketers wear watches while fielding. To name a few—lan Bishop, Paul Adams, Fanie de Villiers, Mohammed Zahid, Vikram Rathore and Peter Martin.

8.Umpire Dickie Bird often wore a distinctive white golf cap on the field.

9. Vinod Kambli wears a locket with



the photograph of Shirdi ke Sai Baba, a couple of other chains round his neck, a bandana under his helmet often while batting, and earrings.

10.Gary Kirsten almost always wears a bandana in the South African colours under his helmet.

11.Brian Lara wears a chain, with a mini bat dangling from it, round his

FIVE THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT AZHARUDDIN

neck.

1. He was adopted and looked after by his grandfather Vajehuddin from the

time he was 40 days old.

2.As a teenager, most of his colleagues rated him a better leg-spinner than a batsman.

3.On his debut Test in Calcutta in 1984, Azhar wore the Fred Perry T-shirt his captain Sunil Gavaskar had presented him a few days before. The sentimental Azhar scored a century.

4.In that innings, for only the second time in his life, he wore a helmet which was much too large for his head. He had borrowed it from a close friend named Chamundeshwarnath who played for Andhra Pradesh.

5.He is a passionate collector of

watches—he does not know how many he has!

FIVE WOMEN BEHIND SUCCESSFUL MEN

1.Brian McMillan: 'My wife Denise: if it was not for her, I would have retired at the age of 23. She is my biggest supporter.'

2.Darren Gough: 'My wife Anna. She made me realise that to get to the top you have to work hard.'

3. Arjuna Ranatunga: 'My wife Samadara has played a tremendous role in my success. At the time of our marriage she was earning twice as much as I. In spite of that, she decided to be a housewife and help me further my cricketing activities.'

Javed Miandad is the Vice-President of Habib Bank in Pakistan



Eden Gardens evokes various sorts of reactions from players and the paying public

4. Wasim Akram: His wife Huma is a trained psychotherapist. She has subjected him to hours of therapy, sometimes even partial hypnosis. Akram says: 'She has been able to understand me fully. I've become much more mature after marriage.'

5. Craig McDermott: His wife Sue is his physical instructor and has nursed him through the 14 surgenes he has undergone in his career.

OH CALCUTTA!

One city you just cannot be indifferent about. Six views on what it is like to play cricket in Calcutta.

1. Eden Gardens, and not Lord's, should be the cricket capital of the world',—Abdul Hafeez Kardar.

2. When the ball hits your pad, it is deafening—the Indian cricketers appeal, 100,000 spectators inside the ground appeal and so do the 100,000 outside, the ones with the duplicated tickets'—Tony Lewis.

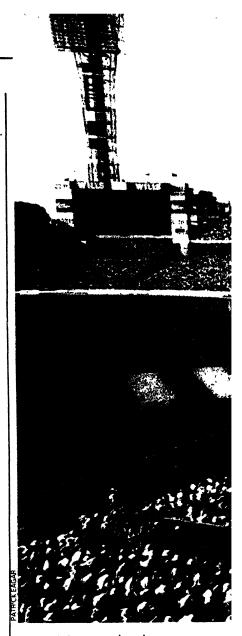
3. You haven't seen Test cricket till you've been there. You feel like a filmstar when you walk out there'—Tony Greig.

4. T'd rather play before a Calcutta crowd than at Lord's where the applause is strictly limited to three or four claps' —Sunil Gavaskar.

5. I will never play at Eden again'—Sunil Gavaskar after he had been booed during the Test against England in 1984-85

CRICKETERS IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS: BEFORE/AFTER/DURING THEIR CAREERS

Dean Jones—clerk with the Department of Community Services. Rodney Hogg—milkman. Godfrey Evans—adviser to bookmakers on Test grounds.



Lance Cairns—undertaker.

Chandu Sarwate—dactyloscopist (fingerprint expert).

Graham Gooch—toolmaker.

Graeme Fowler—swimming instructor.

Bill Athey—barman, building labourer, sports shop assistant. Norman Cowans—glassblower, squash & real tennis professional. Bill Lawry—plumber.

Javed Miandad—Vice-President, Habib Bank, Pakistan

Roland Butcher—football coach. Allan Lamb—timber company representative.

Peter Willey—labourer at a shoe factory, now an umpire.

Jack Hobbs—business in sports goods.

Hemu Adhikari—army colonel.



Ian Redpath—antique dealer. Fred Titmus—ran a post office in Hertfordshire.

Ray Lindwall—florist.

Conrad Hunte—worker with the Moral Rearmament Movement.

Derek Pringle—T-shirt designer, now

a journalist. Jeff Thomson—bank clerk, dock

labourer.
Clarrie Grimmett—calligraphist.
Mike Brearley—psychoanalyst.
Colin Croft—YS11 pilot with Air

Caribbean.

Joel Garner—manager in a newspaper house, telephone operator.

Mike Gatting—part-time plumber. Allan Border—clerk and motorcar company representative. Dermot Reeve—Lord's ground staff. Jack Russell—carpet fitter and artist. Graham Thorpe—worked for a wine merchant.

Alec Stewart—sales representative for a sports manufacturer.

Phil Tuffnel—qualified silversmith and minicab driver.

Paul Strang—marketing manager for a timber company.

Craig McDermott—runs his own construction company.

Chris Cairns-labourer.

Patterson Thompson—commercial pilot.

WHAT ARE THE WORLD CHAMPIONS OF 1983 DOING NOW?

1. Kapil Dev and his wife Romi have a company named Dev and Dev. He is

also a director in the Sahara group.

2. Mohinder Amarnath is making television serials in Mumbai, apart from working as a TV commentator.

3. Sunil Gavaskar is a highly successful cricket columnist and TV commentator and is a partner in a company which revolutionised sports promotion in India.

4.Krish Srikkanth manages his family business of manufacturing and exporting electrical and leather goods **5.**Sandeep Patil edits a Marathi sports magazine apart from owning a hotel. He works and plays for *Sungrace Mafatlal*.

6.Yashpal Sharma, a qualified first-class umpire, works for *State Bank of India*, plays for them, and is also a TV commentator.

7. Syed Kirmani is actively involved in



cricket in Karnataka, works as a senior manager for the *State Bank of India* in Bangalore.

8.MadanLal is the coach of the Indian team.

9.Roger Binny is looking after the Karnataka Ranji Trophy squad. He works as an officer with the State Bank of India in Bangalore.
10.Balvinder Sandhu coaches Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers. Has a spare-parts business and plays professionally in Kenyan League cricket as an off-spinner.

11.Ravi Shastri has set up an advertising and promotional agency. He is also a successful TV commentator and columnist.

.12.Dilip Vengsarkar runs a successful cricket academy and is also a cricket columnist. A senior manager with *Tata's* and still plays for them in local tournaments.

13.Kirti Azad is an MLA, apart from being a TV commentator.

14. Sunil Valson is a public relations executive with *SAIL* where he looks after sports promotional work.

WHAT SIX FAMOUS FANS WERE DOING WHEN INDIA WON THE WORLD CUP, 1983

1.1 remember every moment of it. The excitement, the tension....everything. The day was particularly special for me since that was the first time I watched a cricket match together with my late father (Vijay Manjrekar). As the match progressed, I remember dad discussing the finer points of the game'—Sanjay Manjrekar.

2.1 was barely 10 plus then so I don't remember too much. My elder brother, Aiith, keenly followed it on

TV and after India achieved the

Vined Kambli wears a locket with the photograph of Shirdi ke Sai Baba, a couple of chains around his neck and earrings.

impossible, the residents of our colony came out on the street to celebrate'—Sachin Tendulkar.

3.'I still remember Amarnath getting

3.'I still remember Amarnath getting Holding Ibw and the tears in my eyes'—Anil Kumble.

4.'1 watched every ball of the match. A memorable day in my life. When the seventh wicket was putting up a fight for the Windies, I remember praying for the breakthrough'—Nayan Mongia.

5.Even before the start of the match, I had this firm belief that India would emerge winners. I was watching the match with friends and didn't miss a single ball. And when India did make it, I was on top of the world'—Javagal Srinath.

6. I idolised Kapil *paaji* right from my childhood. To me and lots of friends, he was the hero of our World Cup triumph. After the victory, it was *mithais*, crackers and lots of fun'—Ajay Jadeja.

FIVE BANNERS AT THE INDO-PAK VS SRI LANKA MATCH AT COLOMBO

This historic 'Goodwill' match, was played just before the Wills World Cup could begin, in an effort to convince the Australians and the West Indians to reverse their decision and go ahead and play their matches in Sri Lanka.

- **1.** 'Neighbours in need are neighbours in deed'.
- **2.** Aussie PM is Keating, Australians are cheating.
- **3.**'Murali, you are not guilty. You were only convicted by the grandson of an ex-convict'.
- **4.** 'Warne's not coming. He's afraid one of our girls will pinch him'.
- **5.** 'Azhar and Akram are men, Taylor and Richardson aren't even women'.

This is an extract from 'The Center fresh Book Of Cricket Lists', compiled and edited by Barry O'Brien and Muder Patherys It is published by Heritage Resources Private Limited Price Rs 95 Reprinted by permission of the authors

Wake Up And Smell The Coffee...

Indian sport needs a new attitude

IRE power. The Little Oxford of Current English denotes it as the noun that describes the destructive capacity of guns. Aggro, on the other hand, is denoted as the slang form of aggressive hostility.

Both terms are common to sport universally. There is no argument that fire in the gut and aggro in the core of the soul are the two main ingredients that makes a sportsperson a winner.

We have seen these traits in a crosssection of the sporting fraternity. In the cool sting of a Muhammad Ali, the almost jet-propelled record-breaking leap of a Mike Powell, in the blitz of a 100m dash by a Carl Lewis, in the deft touch football of a Maradona, in the silk-smooth execution of a slam-dunk by a Michael Jordan, in the fierce, almost possessed, batting of Ijaz Ahmed, in the fiery volleys of a Becker or the vociferous on-court gimmicks of a McEnroe. In the grunt of a Monica Seles and, of course, in the bone cracking, face deforming rugby league Down Under.

Killer instinct. We've seen it all over the world except in Indian sport. We are the touch artist, the wrist movers, the ankle trippers (langi mar). The people of the gentle genre (only on the sportsfield, that is). We love to convince ourselves that we are skilful; that power and aggro really doesn't , matter. The question is, how much has this ideology helped to bring laurels after fifty years? Perhaps our Independence. But nothing on the sportsfield. Defeat is exemplified in our body language, right at the beginning of an event. It couldn't be our skin colour. No inferiority complexes there. We are better off than the black in this department. Yet they are the Gods of sport.

I think it's got a lot to do with diet and attitude.



We have an attitude that spells a lack of fire in the belly. We are still the princes of the past. Dwelling on past glory. Forgetting that the need of the hour in our sporting arena is a never-say-die attitude. An attitude that spells the virtues of a Rana Pratap or a Shivaji, not just in the history books alone but on the battlefield called the Astro-turf. An attitude that looks the competition in the eye and says—"I'm going to lick you (and not just your foot!).'

And it would be wrong to say that 'attitude' is something that differs from region to region.

How then does your neighbour down there in that small little island beyond the Palk Strait produce world class sprinting champs? How then does your biggest competitor on the North Western side produce the world's fastest bowlers? How then are the Chinese smashing world athletic records and Japan producing world class marathoners. Asia even has one of the world's best football teams in South Korea.

And as for our diets, we eat vegetables ONLY because an ex-MP and a believer in the green cult professes that eggs are very damaging | Text and cartoon Arthur Cardozo

to our health. So that takes care of the eggs. When, in reality, it is one of nature's richest sources of minerals and class I proteins. So essential in developing a sports person's stamina and strength.

I do agree that meat, eggs and other non-vegetarian items is harmful to health if consumed in excess, especially without proper exercise. But the world sporting fraternity worships this diet because it gives instant strength and helps muscle development. We cannot ignore this fact that class II proteins available from vegetables are not the kind of diet that makes world-beating sportspersons.

The solution truly lies in us believing in ourselves.

With a population that is the second largest in the world, it is amazing that we have produced but only a handful of sporting greats. And that too in sports that are not totally of universal acceptance. We need men/women with a mission. Not a mission to go on a shopping spree at international sports meets.

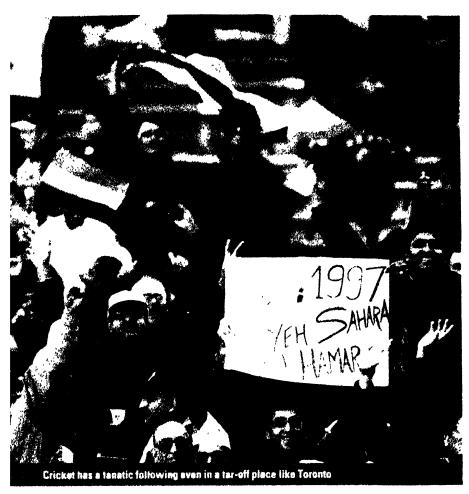
Are we for real? In the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence, before any other pledge is taken, let us promise to wake up to a new attitude and a global prominence in sports. And that new attitude should spell W-I-N-N-E-R.

We, as a nation, after 50 years of standing on our feet -- really do not run. It's ironical yet true. Let us not live on what Milkha Singh and our hockey teams did so many moons ago. And let us not get carried away by the Indian media which never lets us forget what happened to the disillusioned West Indies on that fateful day in 1983.

1983! Doesn't that sound like a date in history? Are we a nation on the move?

Or is it just a padayatra.

READERS' FORUM



POOR ADMINISTRATION

OR all its madness, cricket in India is now like a religion. From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, people are glued to the TV set when India is playing an international match. Despite the widespread enthusiasm and love for the game, India is hovering at the bottom of the Geat cricket rating in both versions of the game.

The obvious question is: what ails our cricket? How can our

neighbour Pakistan be a major force in world cricket in spite of having a less affluent board and an inferior infrastructure? Maybe, our cricketers are less talented. Maybe, we lack the killer instinct. But, more than the cricketers, our Board must take the blame for Indian cricket's stagnation.

The BCCI has failed to channelise the cricket craze in the right direction. In the 50th year of our Independence, the BCCI mandarins are locked in a battle for personal gains, forgetting the larger interests of the country. The recently postponed AGM at Chennai is an obvious example of the officials' greed for power. The

postponement was unprecedented and so was the number of politicians involved in the election.

It's no secret that most of the sports bodies in India are headed by politicians. Cricket is no exception. So far, only three first class cricketers have had the privilege of being the BCCI's president. But Fatesingh Rao Gaekwad, Ram Prakash Mehra and Raj Singh Dungarpur were more influential as officials rather than as cricketers.

The history of India's cricket administration shows how predominantly it was run by non-technical people. For the last three decades we have been savagely devastated by fast bowlers whenever we played abroad. Yet, the BCCl hasn't changed the slow nature of our pitches. The much vaunted grounds and pitches committee was created but there is a vast difference between the BCCl's concept and putting it into practise. Really, will anything come out of it?

The game at the grassroot level has been seriously neglected. Being an affluent body, the BCCI can easily afford to invest substantially at the grassroots level. But so far, nothing has been done.

Our stars compete in the major centres and enjoy five star hospitality. But the university cricketers encounter treacherous tracks in obscure places and have to spend the night in dingy guest houses.

Will things ever change?

CHINMOY ROY, Calcutta.



AWAR

ricket is no longer a game.
Before you have me run out
let me confess: it is a war; it is a
business; it is life. It is also, if you
believe me, the last thriving
symbol of colonialism. In the
colonies, the king may be dead, but
he lives on through cricket.

Cricket did not receive any royal patronage — Ranjitsinghji and Dulcepsinghji being the exceptions— but it is the spirit of sycophancy among the people in the colonies that is appalling. The slavish desire of the majority (the ruled) to be a part of the minority (the rulers), is terrible to behold.

The game has been stamped with the indelible British influence. The structure of the game—lunch at 11 00, tea and cucumber sandwiches at 3:00; the ostentatious show of impartiality—one umpire not being enough; the unit of length: the yard; and, finally, the constant refrain of cricket being a 'gentleman's game' gives the sport the English essence.

The British concept of hierarchy also colours cricket. The feudal pyramid, the ICC at the spire, the Boards of the Test-playing nations on the second tier and the Associate Members at the lowest rung is as much a part of cricket as the square-cut and the on drive.

The game is suffused with the English 'holier-than-thou' attitude. They unjustly hold on to the urn of Ashes; they will not let any effort go in vain to stop a 'commoner' like Jagmohan Dalmiya from being ICC President. Such has been the infiltration of this spirit into our consciousness that we regard speaking English as an essential qualification for being a national cricketer.

SUMANA ROY, Siliguri





CONDEMNATION

THE behaviour of Inzamam-ul-Haq during the second match of the '97 Sahara Cup needs strong condemnation. He violated code no.2 & 3 of the ICC's players' code of conduct. An international cricketer should know how to handle the pressures and provocations which are part and parcel of the game.

True, cricket is now a professional sport and an India-Pakistan tie is more than a mere cricket match. But there is no contradiction between fierce competition and sportsmanship. A professional can also be a ger tleman. Players often experience public abuse and barracking while fielding on the boundary line. The normal practice is to report it to the captain who, in turn, will ask the umpires to ensure the safety of his players.

However, inzamam is not the first case. Abdul Qadir, Merv Hughes and Colin Croft also behaved in the same way in the past. Qadir was taken to court while Hughes never played for his national side again.

Probably, the best example of handling a hostile crowd was Tony Greig, whose tackling of the temperamental Eden crowd in 1972 is still talked about in city cricket circles.

Fortunately, the Inzamams are in the minority on the international circuit. Most of the players are well-mannered. Perhaps the last word in this respect has been said by Md. Azharuddin who considers education as being more important in a player's life than cricket.

SUBIR KUMAR SEN, Calcutta



AURAV (Ganguly) is not bothered about what we write," said a journalist who works in the vernacular press. "That's because TV has nullified the power of the print media. People are able to see first-hand how players perform. They don't need a scribe to explain things to them. Saurav knows that if he performs well, millions of people will watch and come to the right conclusions.

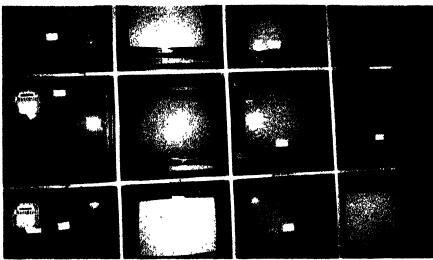
"It is only when the print media sustains a campaign over several days on a particular issue, like, for example, that a cricketer should be dropped from the team, that a player feels nervous," he continued, "Because then, there is a distinct possibility that he might be omitted from the team. Otherwise, he is not bothered about what we write."



sneering and contemptuous and cynical about his talents and abilities. This was more so in the local vernacular media. If Saurav had believed all the negative stuff that was written about him, he wouldn't have been able to sustain the self-belief that is needed to make it to the Indian team.)

Yet, there is hope for the print media. In the West, despite the presence of hundreds of channels and saturation coverage by TV, print continuous to thrive. Why is it so?

One can only conclude that print



When these sets come on, the mind goes off

What the journalist said could be true. Firstly, cricketers can—and do—indeed, go over the heads of print journalists and impress the fans directly through TV. Secondly, print could be having less impact these days because reading is apparently dying away among the younger generation. They are glued for hours in front of the TV. I rarely come across a young person who has his nose buried in a book. Maybe, what the sports journalist writes, is not being read at all.

(A small aside: Why should Saurav read what people write about him. For years, the write-ups on him were

has a certain undeniable power. The strength and permanence of the written word. Words, unlike TV images, do not vanish in nano-seconds. When we read a magazine or a book, we are in control of the medium. We turn the pages at our own desired speed. We can study sentences at length; hence, it is retained in the mind for a longer period than a TV picture. Words also have the ability, especially if it is used with sincerity and moral conviction. to cut through even the most resistant of minds and hit the heart. Clearly, the impact is deeper and more durable than a TV image.

When we watch TV, we are at the mercy of the director who puts whatever image he feels likes on the screen. Most of the time, the image vanishes before we have properly assimilated its meaning. This lack of control and the ensuing passivity on the viewer's part is quite frustrating. It will ensure that print will remain as a viable option, no matter how pervasive computers and TV watching becomes across the globe.

Even the great computer guru Bill Gates, while on a recent visit to Cambridge, admitted ruefully, "I prefer magazines, (to reading matter on the computer)."

The cricket betting scandal has clearly shown the power of the print media. What has TV done in this case, except to do some superficial coverage and show ten second interviews with different people. The print media, with their in-depth features and articles, has performed far better than TV.

I have a leeling that this present obsession with satellite TV will fade away. After all, most of the programmes are so boring and dull. People will soon realise that there is a real danger to the mind if they watch too much of junk TV.

Warns Greg Playfair, author of The Evil Eye, a book which details the negative impact of too much TV viewing, "Pre-occupation with TV prevents active inner creativity—children and adults merely sit and watch the pseudo-world of the screen, instead of trying to use their own imagination."

On the other hand, there is so much more pleasure and brain energy used when you read a magazine or a book. Agrees Playfair, "When reading or listening to the radio, we remain active mentally. This is because we mix the words we see or hear with the images they inspire."

Otherwise, why is it that after watching several hours of TV, you feel that you have wasted your time but you don't experience that same feeling of emptiness and futility when you finish reading a magazine or a novel.

Shevlin Sebastian

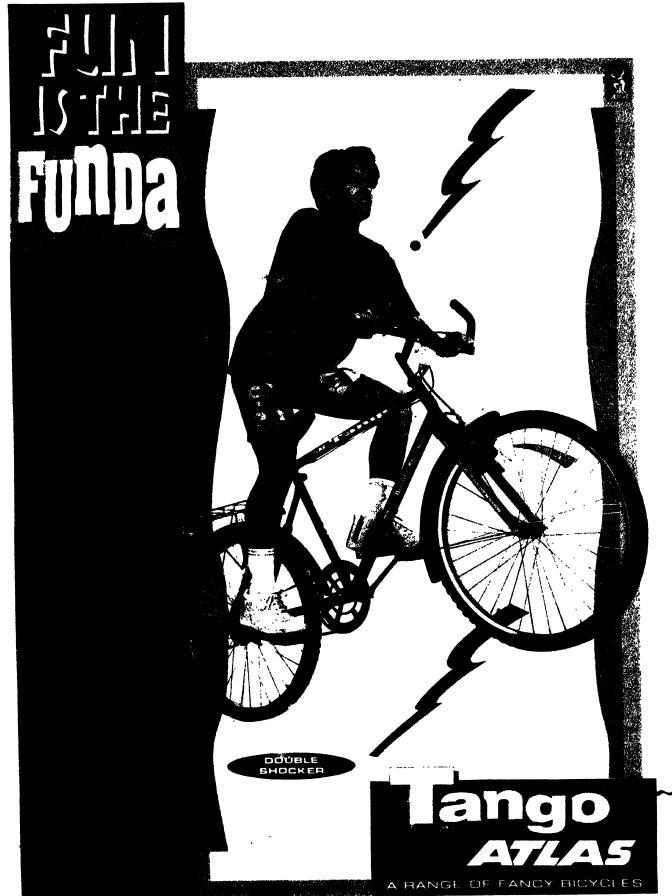






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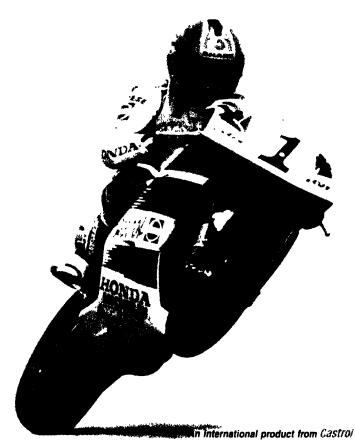
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10

DYNAMITE DUO

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi are Sportsworld's Sportspersons Of The Year

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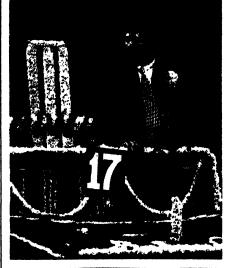
LOOKING BACK

A pictorial glimpse of the highs and lows of the year

5,7

NOWHERE ON THE WORLD SCENE

ndian football is in the doldrums while lesser countries like Jamaica have qualified for the World Cup ENNIS





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FREEWHEELING

Editor: Mansur Alı Khan Pataudı

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH OF LEANDER PAES AND MAHESH BHUPATHI BY MOHAMMAD SHAFIQ AND INSET PHOTOGRAPH OF HANSIE CRONJE BY TAPAN DAS

SHOOTOUT

JAGMOHAN DALMIYA and I.S.BINDRA went for broke in the AGM of the BCCI held at Chennai. Dalmiya won but the Board has been split into two antagonistic groups. The final loser: Indian cricket

BY GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA

OW when they talk to each other publicly (incidentally, there is little scope for a private conversation between them), there is invariably a very formal "Mr. Dalmiya" and vice versa.

That they have been close friends for the last 22 years is now part of history. Even after their infamous clash witnessed during the last cricket Board elections in September, members were trying to mediate between the Big J and Big B of Indian cricket. But then you didn't require the best astrologer in town to predict that the attempt would fail hopelessly,

Yes, there is finally an 'official split' between the doubles team that had won so many matches for Indian cricket. This was the pair that had earned the high brand equity Indian cricket officials enjoy these days. But like all good things coming to an end sooner or later, the partnership has ended. Period.

According to an eye-witness account, it was quite a sight for the 27 other members present during the Board's AGM at Chennai, when a fired-up Bindra pulled out his trump Tard. In his characteristic imposing style, he told the members that his good friend had no business staying on at the meeting. Unless, of course, he chose Board membership over the top post in the ICC.

In a dramatic gesture, Bindra produced a copy of the lax he received from the ICC, some 72 hours earlier, which clearly stipulates that the president cannot vote or actively take part in his country's state and national level cricket elections.

Outside the meeting hall, a close Bindra associate was overhead telling the photographers to be on guard. But what would they click?

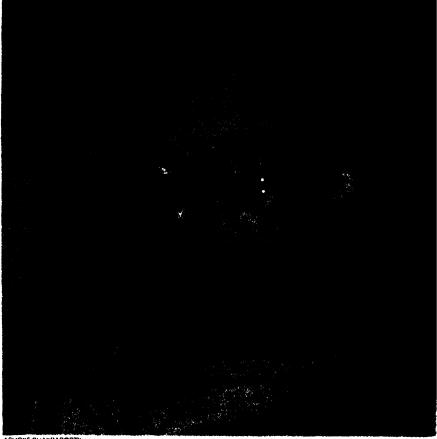
"The ICC President making an inglorious exit", he announced sarcastically. If you thought, that he shouldn't have said this so early, then you didn't sense the mood. The Bindra group was quite confident it was thumbs up for them even before the battle had begun.

'Jagmohan Dalmiya is a superb tactician. But, for once, he under-estimated us. And that

happens when you become too big for your boots," remarked one of the Bindra loyalists.

The media was in full attendance. So much so that it prompted a Chennai- based businessman to comment, "Even Sachin and Lara didn't attract so much attention the last time they were here." There were foreign agency reporters, foreign TV crews, influential MPs and MI As, high flying bureaucrats....And soon, word had got around that the ICC President was finding things too hot to handle.

Jagmohan Dalmiya wins the battle but will he be able to function smoothly?



ASHOKE CHAKRABORTY

A red card for him almost looked a certainty. Surely, even a mad man wouldn't leave the ICC Presidentship, just for the sake of casting a vote in his state association's favour. It had to be curtains for him now. Having already signed the register, a substitute voter couldn't have been allowed. The Dalmiya camp would lose a sure vote but far greater was going to be the loss of face and morale.

But then Jagmohan Dalmiya deployed one of his master strokes. If his supporters were to be believed, the Big J had anticipated this move by Mr.Bindra and had kept an ICC constitution nearby.

"Mr Bindra, what you were reading is just one paragraph and that is ambiguous," Mr.Dalmiya said, "If you permit me, I will read out the relevant paragraphs. Nowhere have they said the ICC President doesn't have the right to vote."

This is how Dalmiya successfully thwarted Bindra's attack. The battle of Chennai was won and lost then and there.

Wrong! proclaimed the Bindra group. According to them, the turning point was the Board's decision to hire Nalini Chidambaram as their counsel. This show of clout had apprently sent shock waves in their camp. Incidentally, apart from being a very well-known lawyer, Nalini is the linance minister's wife.

If this version is to be believed, committed voters in the Bindra camp switched loyalties at the last minute. They are mostly businessmen and industrialists who felt that they ran a major risk of inviting the all-powerful finance minister's fury. It was also feared in certain quarters that the meeting could turn out to be a repeat of the UP assembly scenario. Some felt that there was a possibility of kidnapping and violence. However, nothing of that sort happened.

What happened was worse. Shameless politicking that left a very sour taste in the mouth. The way the rival groups went about securing votes would have given full-time politicians of our country an inferiority complex. Neither group



I.S.Bindra: sour taste in the mouth for him

took 'No' for an answer. If Dalmiya could commit the state association secretary to come down and vote for him, Bindra persuaded the president to fly down and supersede the secretary and give his vote.

Most of the voters had a central minister or a top industrialist or a bureaucrat or a CBf officer calling them up. For once, being a working committee member of the Board became more fashionable than a Test cricketer. Even the much maligned godman Chandraswamy's name was floated about as an active member of the Dalmiya front. Dalmiya denies this allegation even today, "Let alone knowing him, I have never even spoken to him. This is a malicious campaign which once again shows their true colours."

Angry and upset, he sums up the entire episode in one sentence, "They are being plain jealous."

Bindra is somewhat surprised at the charge and quickly defends himself, "Me jealous? That is the problem with Jaggu. In his moment of triumph, (winning the ICC post), he forgot all those people who had worked tirelessly for him behind the scenes."

His loyalists claim, Bindra went out of his way to help his friend and the

least he expected was some kind of gratefulness. Dalmiya's group hotly dismisses this claim by saying it was the Pakistani officials who had helped Dalmiya in getting the coveted post. Bindra had absolutely no role to play.

Post-Chennai, Dalmiya is quite certain that the bone of contention is his ICC presidentship. "The ICC president can only be removed because of bankruptcy or death. There is the third possibility: you can give up the post voluntarily. Bindra must understand I am not going to give him this post on a platter."

Apart from this thorny issue, there is the case of the two major television companies involved in this soap opera involving two former friends: World Tel and the TWI.

The primary complaint against the ruling group is that they've shown undue consideration to the US-based World Tel. But Bindra also faces a similar charge levelled against him for having shown 'undue consideration' to the UK-based TWI.

Then there is this multinational company Pepsi. At the AGM, the Pepsi contract issue was raked up.
Allegedly, Mr.Bindra had signed and finalised the terms and conditions of the agreement all by himself. At the meeting, Mr Dalmiya questioned the wisdom of Mr Bindra for finalising such an agreement, which apparently resulted in a loss of a few crores of rupees for the Board.

The grapevine has it that an angry Bindra has vowed to his inner circle that he would fight back. There is no reason to disbelieve him, judging by his past record. What happened to the triendship, he was asked? "Nothing. That remains. That has nothing to do with Board politics," Bindra smiles.

His ex-blood brother sees the matter differently. "Friendship, after all that has happened. What a question to ask!" is his curt reply

Those who think the battle royal has ended are being too naive. Be prepared for another round of high quality drama, politicking and excitement!

You must understand this is the interval. ●



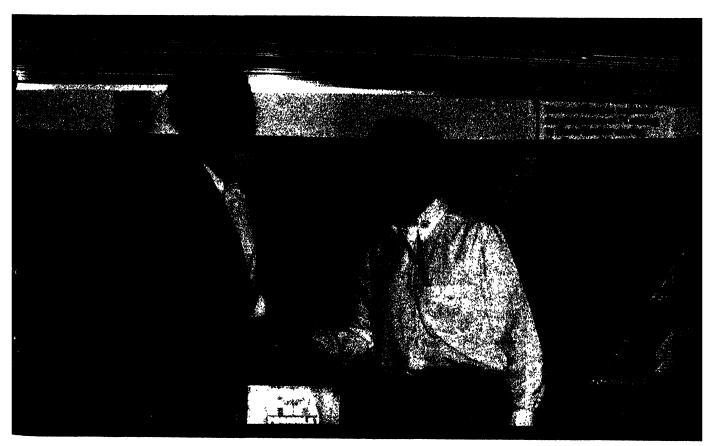
AND THEY CAME





CALLING...

Formula One drivers had a few surprise visitors in their paddocks this season



STORM IN A TEA CUP

PRAKASH PADUKONE took a decisive step in forming the Indian Badminton
Confederation. But the sad news was that he abandoned his revolution far too quickly

Betrayal and Prakash
Padukone, the Failed God.
When Prakash took on the
might of the Badminton Association
of India (BAI), the script had all the
trappings of a Bollywood pot-boiler.
Prakash played the angry young man,
determined to cleanse a system which
was rotting. The villains were the BAI
bosses whose wayward ways had
pushed the players to the edge.

The birth of the Indian Badminton Confederation (IBC) all but spelt death for the BAI, which anyway was threatening to collapse under the autocratic rule of Fazil Ahmed. But unlike most Hindi films, where the hero ends up triumphant and everything ends on a happy note, the Prakash-IBC episode had a rather tragic ending.

Just when it appeared that Prakash had won the battle decisively, an unexpected blow came from the International Badminton Federation (IBF) which refused to recognise IBC and informed them that the entries of Indian players for all international meets will have to be routed through the BAL.

The IBF refusal to recognise IBC seemed to have defeated Padukone. He buckled under the mounting pressure from the players themselves to sue for a compromise with the BAI.

A face-saving merger took place and Prakash was made the executive

president of the new BAI council and Verma its president. The persons responsible for this compromise were former international Pradip Gandhe and Anil Mahesh of the Badminton Lovers Trust of Mumbai. Both of them worked hard behind the scenes, once the IBF hardened its stand.

As mediators, Gandhe and Mahesh ensured that negotiations continued between BAI and IBC. They even handled the ticklish issue of the removal of national coach Puri deftly. Though Puri's removal was not formally announced, Prakash was assured that the coach would be eased out.

The body also fixed guidelines for its members. Prakash was given a leading role in conceptualising, administering and monitoring all schemes relating to coaching, development, selection and planning of the sport, including its finance through a Trust specially formed for this purpose.

The other compromises which were reached were the merger of the two calendars announced by the BAI and IBF and no action would be taken against players for participating or not participating in tournaments.

It was also decided that every year the men's and women's national champions will represent the players in the Executive Committee and all parallel associations were required to merge at the state level.

With most state bodies having split

SCORP NEWS

Prakash Padukone should have stuck to his guns for a longer period of time and persuaded the international body to recognise his confederation

vertically to join the Prakash bandwagon, it was not only difficult for the 'rebels' to eat humble pie quickly, but, in certain cases, it was quite impossible.

It is here that the failure of the Prakash experiment was so obvious. Yet, it was a very brave attempt which, with a little more imaginative leadership and a few sacrifices from



the players could have succeeded well. It could also have rescued Indian badminton from the clutches of the official lobby which controls sport in the country. Moreover, it could have shown the way to other sports.

Prakash was well-equipped to handle the show. He had the players with him, the backing of a big sponsor. And, more importantly, he had the sympathy of the entire sports-loving fraternity.

But it was not to be. Prakash may have been a great player. He may also

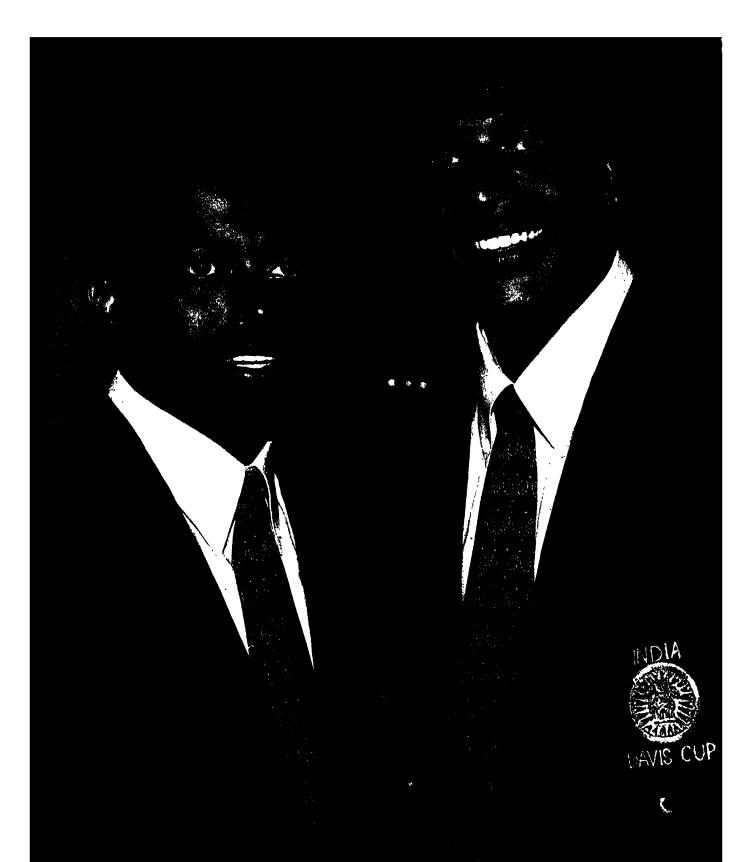
be a perfect gentleman, but he is no leader of men. By his own admission, he was "pushed" into forming IBC by the high-handed ways of the BAI officials. But he could not control his flock in the face of the IBF stonewaling. When the players needed to stand by Prakash, they pressurised him to sue for peace.

Had they stuck by him the top players would have lost not more than a year of international exposure. The IBF could surely have been persuaded to see reason. It was too small a price pay tor a lifetime of freedom from the official raaj. But, player—a selfish lot by nature—opted for short-term gams.

The rest is history. What was labelled as a revolution turned out to be a mere storm in the proverbial teacup. The only 'positive' gain from this whole exercise was the ouster of Fazil Ahmed, who had successfully stick to his chair like a leech for the past 30 years.

Indian badminton, in the post IBC-era will never be the same again.

Sumit Mukherjee



PORTSPERSONS OF THE YEAR

The superb achievements of the LEANDER PAES-MAHESH BHUPATHI doubles combination was the brightest news this year

T some point, in the last year, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi matured as men, as players, and as human beings. They started believing in themselves. They stopped feeling inadequate and inferior when they faced foreign, especially white, opponents.

Ì

One immediate consequence of this change of attitude was that their game improved dramatically. When they were in a crunch situation and faced defeat, (as they did in quite a few matches this year), they didn't give up and throw in the towel (as all our sportsmen normally do). The moment a man or a pair refuses to give up, that is the moment success comes. It is quite simply the power of positive thinking.

It has helped matters a great deal that they are such a well-matched pair. Paes with his lightning swift reflexes at the net; Bhupathi with his long deep serves and powerful groundstrokes. It has also helped that they are such good friends. A common urban background and education, experiencing and enjoying the same Western

music, movies, clothes and food. They seemed destined for each other.

Paes and Bhupathi are also, without realising it, having an immeasurable impact on their inferiority-ridden, perpetually complaining countrymen. We, especially our young people, are beginning to realise that if we have a positive attitude, put in the right amount of hard work and labour, are persistent, sincere, determined, and never give up, we can be world beaters.

What has hampered us for years (since 1947, to be precise) has been our national atmosphere of defeatism, pessimism, despair, fatalism, a lack of trust and terrible, terrible intrigues.

Thank God, Paes and
Bhupathi do not think this way.
Positive Western modes of
thinking and behaviour have
permeated and changed their
mind-set.

Their six ATP tour titles and being runners-up at the World Doubles Championships has been a remarkable feat. To progress from World No.36 at the beginning of the season to No.5 today is fantastic.

What is imperative now is for Paes-Bhupathi to maintain this level of performance for a few years. There is every possibility that they could become a great doubles pair. They must not rest on their laurels, and fade away from the international scene, as Indian sportsmen tend to do (Example: P.T. Usha after her fourth place finish in the 400m hurdles at the '84 Los Angeles Olympics.)

This year was a bleak one, as usual, for Indian sports except when we became unexpected runners-up in the World Cup junior hockey championships at Milton Keynes in England and maybe, when we won the Sahara Cup. So, we had no difficulty in selecting Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi as Sportsworld's 1997 Sportspersons Of The Year.

After all, international tennis is the most fiercely competitive sport these days. So, to be near the top of the pile in this game, even though it is in doubles, is a very great achievement.

Congratulations Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi!

Shevlin Sebastian

*AUGUST '96—Leander Paes, then world No.80 in doubles, can get into the main draw of the US Open with a suitable partner, but prefers to team up with Mahesh Bhupathi whose ranking is not high enough to give the Indians a direct entry. They play the qualifiers and trip at the first hurdle. Leander's lans are bemused, his father peeved. "I don't understand what he's doing...he should get his priorities right," says Dr. Vece Paes.

*September '96—Leander says in an interview to an English daily that he and Mahesh Bhupathi have the ability to win a Grand Slam doubles title. People scoff at the remark.

*November '97—The Grand Slam crown is yet to materialise, but no one not the rule.

Till April this year, Leander and Mahesh were their biggest backers. Having won five Challenger titles and having teamed up for a couple of years in the Davis Cup, they did serve notice of their potential. But very few were convinced about any further progress. Neither had quite fulfilled their promise in singles on the ATP Tour. So what guarantee was there of the script unfolding differently in doubles, they

The answers could only be provided by Messrs. Paes and Bhupathi. They took their time, but once they broke the 'barrier' on a sultry night in Chennai, the 'floodgates' opened.

Prague was next to fall. Then came a lull before the Indian duo got hot again in North America. Montreal was

experience the 'Indian magic'. Two early losses in the European Super Nine meets (Stuttgart and Paris) suggested they needed a break before the big one at Hartford. Relaxation came in the form of playing in the Asia Cup back home, followed by a 'fire' week.

Eager to make a mark in the world championship, Paes and Bhupathi arrived in Hartford four days in advance with batteries recharged. The



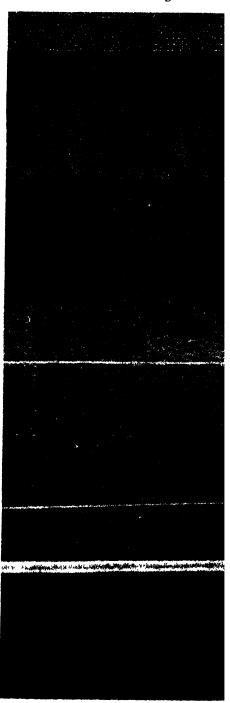
is laughing at Leander, and neither is Dr. Paes complaining. They dare not, after what Leander and Bhupathi have achieved in the last nine months culminating in the World Doubles Championships where the duo came within a match of the coveted crown on their maiden appearance.

HE Leander-Mahesh success story is nothing short of a lairytale, especially in a country like ours where excellence in sport is an exception and \(\) Beijing and Singapore's turn to

The Gold Flake Open, Chennai. Paes and Bhupathi at the press conference after their first ATP tournament win. From here, there was no looking back

the season's biggest 'catch'—the Super Nine title being worth \$73,500 each-followed, a week later, by New Haven.

On fire and hungry for more, Leander and Mahesh looked on course to realising the Grand Slam dream at the US Open, only to lose in the semis to two-time reigning French Open winners Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Daniel Vacek. Back in Asia, it was



drama untolded on expected lines—two wins in three round-robin matches put the Indians in the semis. To their pleasant surprise, the Woodies were out of the way and Leander-Mahesh celebrated their good fortune with a handsome three-set victory over Sebastian Lareau-Alex O'Brien in the semis. There was some more good news for the soaring Indians—Rick Leach and

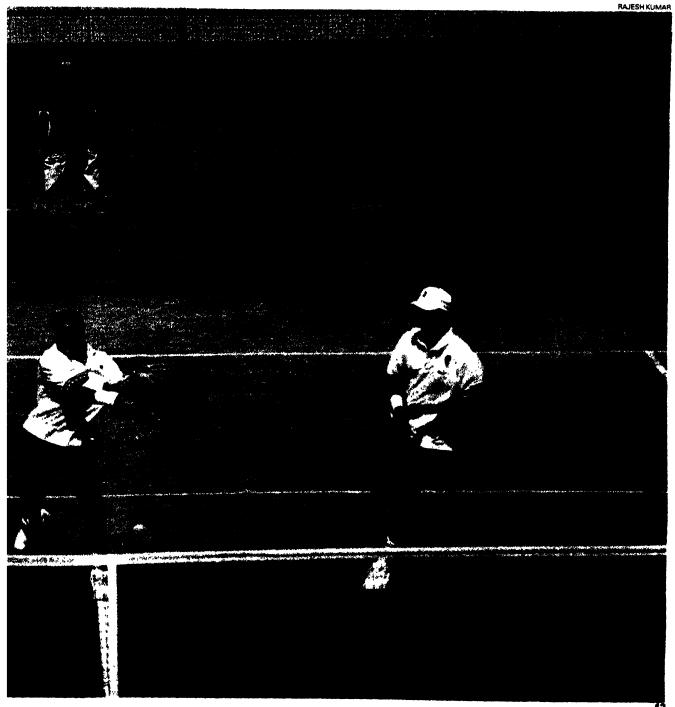
Jonathan Stark would be their opponents in the final, not the world's second-best pair of Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis.

round in their maiden world meet appearance as clear favourites, Leander and Mahesh had one of their Leander's not play and athleticism, coupled

Going into the championship

Leander's net play and athleticism, coupled with Bhupathi's powerful serves and backhanders make them a potent pair on the circuit

rare off days in '97. But, even as the experienced American duo walked away with the most prestigious trophy in men's doubles, there was nothing but kudos and appreciation for the youthful Indians. In their first full year as a doubles pair, the two Davis Cuppers have won 52 of the 65 matches (including Challengers and Davis Cup) they played—an incredible 80% success rate. No other







Indian had ever made the kind of impact these two have made in a span of nine months—not even the Amritraj brothers, who won 13 titles together and was a fairly respected team in their time. More importantly, Leander and Mahesh have busted the myth that Indians can be good competitors, not world-beaters.

If their friendship, understanding and mutual respect are major contributory factors to success, no less significant is Leander's 'nurturing' of Mahesh in the difficult early phase. Sick and tired of travelling on the circuit alone and frustrated by a lack of sustained success in singles, Leander's eyes lit up the day he spotted the talent in Mahesh's game sometime in '96. Everyone could see what Mahesh had—a big serve and a solid return, including a fabulous double-handed backhand. But to Leander's credit, he had the foresight to 'spot' a world-beating doubles partner.

Even as the world disagreed, Leander didn't budge from his belief. At a time when he had already established himself as an above-average doubles player, Leander stuck to his task of improving Mahesh's ranking so that the two of them could be on par and get into the big events as and when they wished.

"Without his help, I wouldn't have been where I am today," admits a grateful Mahesh, whose French Open mixed doubles coup in June this year did his confidence a world of good.

Leander and Mahesh realised not only could they make a name for themselves, there was immense scope for making some good money from doubles to prop up their earnings which had been very moderate otherwise.

And it has turned out to be exactly like that. Both have grossed over \$ 300,000 this year from doubles alone. "It's given us some breathing space and saved us from worrying where the next monetary input would come from. And we've worked hard for what we are reaping now. I think we deserve it," said Bhupathi.

Explaining how he had foreseen a deadly combination with Mahesh two

THE DOLLAR COUNT

A look at the duo's earnings during the year

Six Tour titles (including one in a Super Nine event), runner-up at the season-ending world championship and semi-finalist at the US Open—1997 couldn't have been better for Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi. With the titles came the dollars, at a pretty fast clip. So much so that the two good friends have taken home cheques worth close to \$300,000 (each) from doubles this year.

Add to that, Paes' fairly decent run in singles and Bhupathi's French Open mixed doubles triumph, and you have two young Indians earning a bagful of dollars from a lucrative, but tough, profession. Till the completion of the Hartford world meet, Paes had grossed \$462,383 while Bhupathi had earned \$340,000 this calendar year. Compare those figures to their career earnings till the end of '96—\$425,857 and \$83,498—and you know how big a year 1997 is for Paes and Bhupathi.

The following is a summary of Paes-Bhupathi's doubles exploits of '97:

Tournament	Result	Prize Money
1. Singapore Challenger	Champions	\$ 1550 each
2. Australian Open	Round 1	\$ 2028 each
3. Shanghai Open	Quarter finals	\$ 2165 each
4. Dubai Open	Round 1	\$ 550 each
5. Lipton Championship	Round 2	\$ 2940 each
6. Gold Flake Open	Champions	\$ 14,700 each
7. Prague Challenger	Champions	\$ 775 each
8. Czech Open	Champions	\$ 12,100 each
9. Jerusalem Challenger	Champions	\$ 1550 each
10 French Open	Round 2	\$ 5000 each
11. Queen's Club meet	Round 2	\$ 2250 each
12. Wimbledon	Round 1	\$ 2500 each
13. Du Maurier Open	Champions	\$ 73,500 each
14. Great American Insurance meet	Quarter Finals	\$ 10,650 each
15. Pilot Pen meet	Champions	\$ 31,000 each
16. US Open	Semi Finals	\$ 37,500 each
17. China Open	Champions	\$ 10,500 each
18. Heineken Open	Champions	\$ 22,500 each
19. Eurocard Open	Quarter Finals	# 10,850 each
20. Paris Open	Round 2	\$ 5500 each
21. ATP world championship	Finalists	\$ 40,000 each

Note: Besides the above mentioned 21 tournaments, there were a few weeks when Paes and Bhupathi played with different partners as they were not together at the same place. Bhupathi was quite successful, too, winning the Kyoto Challenger with Wayne Black and making the final of the Infiniti Open with Rick Leach. Paes lost in Round 1 of the Champions Cup (Indian Wells) with Marcos Ondruska and in Round II of the Japan Open with Roger Smith.

Compiled by Amiteve Das Gupta





world championship semi-final against Lareau-O'Brien to realise what Jensen was talking about

Having let two match-points slip in the third set tie-break, Leander missed his first serve on match point No.3. He delivered a kicking second serve and came in, only to find O'Brien lobbing the return wide to Leander's forehand side. The athletic Indian rushed back and, instead of playing a safe shot, went for broke with a flat and unconventional forehand smash which only evoked a look of disbelied on O'Brien's face. It was a shot very few would even dream of playing on match-point.

Stark, a former world No.1 and Grand Slam winner in doubles, made another significant observation a couple of months ago. "So aggressive are these guys that they have started intimidating their opponents. Even experienced teams are scared of playing them these days," Stark remarked after he and Leach—another former world No.1 and

Having a ball. That's Leander's and Mahesh's attitude to tennis and life. Both enjoy their tennis and then relax together

multiple Grand Slam titlist- -- lost in straight sets to the Indians in the Heineken Open final at Singapore.

Aggression is in Leander's blood. He made a name for himself in the Davis Cup with his uninhibited brand of energetic and athletic tennis which has claimed quite a few mega-stars over the years. On the Tour though, Leander's naturally aggressive style has not helped much, forcing him to mellow down and concentrate on developing an all-court game. Now that his new partnership with Mahesh is blossoming, Leander is using his famous on-court fury and some innovative pumping up antics (like chest-butting) to psyche out rivals.

"Being aggressive is part of our strategy...especially when we are down, we know how to pump ourselves up and get out of the hole.

We do it our way, if it intimidates our opponents, good for us," is how Leander looks at it.

Well said, Mr. Pacs.

Just as praiseworthy is the duo's accurate and practical self-assessment. The realisation that doubles, and not singles, could be their daily bread-earner, has pushed them into pursuing the less glamorous event without any ego pangs. Singles remains both Leander and Mahesh's top priorities, but they are aware any such goal can only be achieved with the help of doubles as their most helpful tool.

By identifying their limitations and exploiting the strengths, two of India's most likeable sportspersons have given the country something to laud about in its 50th year of Independence.

Nominating Leander and Mahesh as Sportspersons of the Year is this magazine's way of saluting them. None deserve the honour more than you two. Keep the good work going. Leander-Mahesh!

Bunch Of Jokers

YOU'RE right. ('A pain in the....Sportsworld, October, 1997). The politicians ruling the roost in the Indian sports bodies make hay while the sport sinks into a morass of decay. But aren't we to blame to let these jokers head the federations?

It's known to all and sundry that these dubious politicians have contributed precious little to the society. Then how come nobody comes forward to put a spoke in their wheels?

Certainly, nothing will improve until and unless there is some sort of ordinance clearly mentioning that only a sportsperson who has a minimum level of exposure in the highest level of any discipline should only head the sports bodies. But for it, the beaming Kalmadis and the Shuklas will continue to corrode the structures till there is nothing left.

ARTA MISHRA, Cuttack.



Too Much Shuffling

S we all know, Rahul Dravid has been the backbone of the Indian team during their tours of South Africa and the West Indies. He was the highest scorer for India in both the one-dayers and the Test matches.

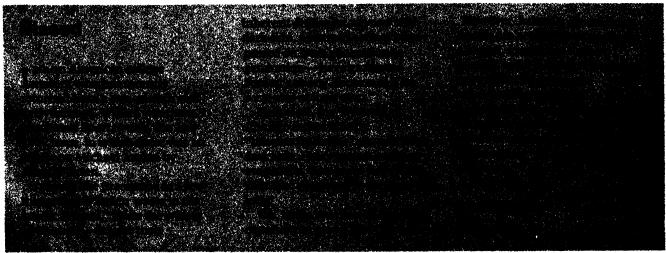
But even then, I feel that his confidence is slowly being eroded through some needless shuffling. First of all, Rahul is made to play the first down slot. This has disturbed his rhythm and

concentration.

The petty politics that is being played with Rahul has already been played with Saurav Ganguly before. But thankfully, Saurav came out with flying colours and did India proud in his recent performances.

Sachin's supporters in the commentator's box notwithstanding, his poor average since the Independence Cup is a cause for worry. It's clear Sachin should devote more time to his batting.

PRASHANT SHARMA, New Delhi.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS

GOPAL SARKAR focuses on some of the personalities who made an impact during this year

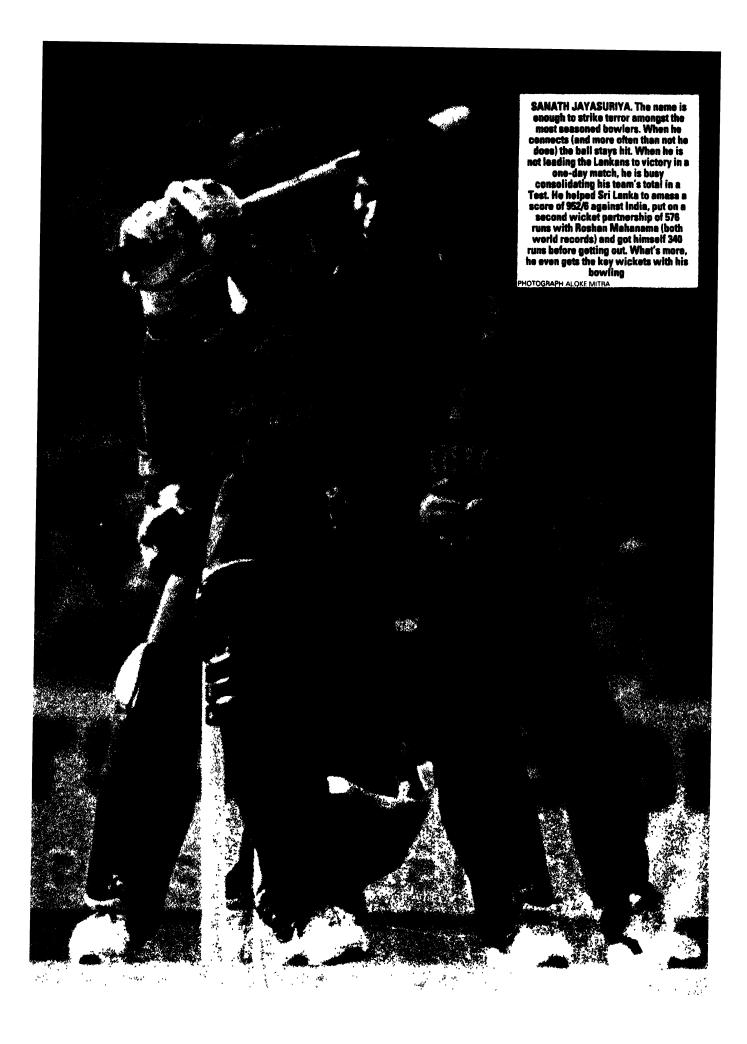




India began their cricket campaign with an overseas tour to South Africa. However, they seemed to be totally at sea against the professional South African campaigners. Even NELSON MANDELA'S presence (seen here shaking hands with SRINATH) did not inspire the Indians. India lost the Test series 2-0 and the one-day series. Srinath's shoulder injury started troubling him in SA and he was out of action for most of the year

LOOKING

A pictorial glimpse of the highs and lows of the year





After the South Africa debacle, India went on a tour to the West Indies. India lost the Test series 1-0. The one day results also went in favour of the hosts. Here SUNIL JOSHI looks to improve his batting as the marathon runner holds aloft the Trinidad flag at Port-of-Spain



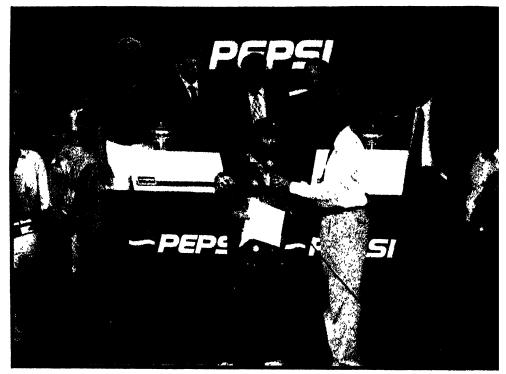
Captains all. (From left) RAMEEZ
RAJA, ARJUNA RANATUNGA,
SACHIN TENDULKAR and
AKRAM KHAN of Bangladesh
pose before the start of the Asia
Cup in Sri Lanka. Thanks to some
astute captaincy and a team that
stayed in sync, the hosts ensured
that the glittering trophy did not
leave the Emerald Isle. This was
the first tournament that
Bangladesh played against the
top class teams



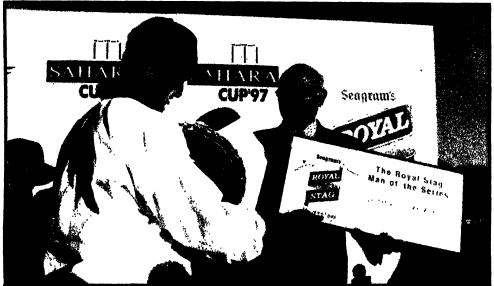
A cricket party. South African CRICKET FANS are unique from their counterparts across the globe. For them a cricket match is more than cricket...it's about beers, barbeques, and, of course, suntanning

Cricket bigwig. JAGMOHAN
DALMIYA certainly knows how
to pull his punches...the knockout
punch is kept for the grand finale.
After a protracted campaign, he
got himself elected as the
President of the ICC, and then
back home managed to get his
group elected to the offices of the
BCCI again, amidst a lot of drama.
He certainly means business

P H O T O F E A T U R E

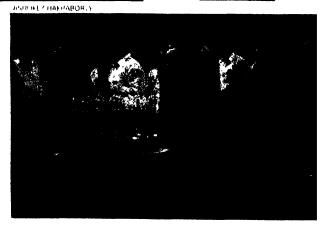


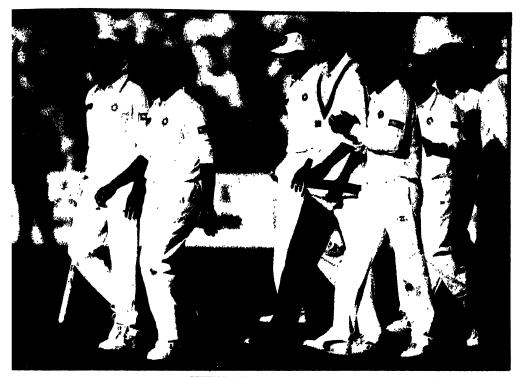
Winning habits. Looks like the Sri Lankans have perfected it into an art. Here RANATUNGA holds aloft the Pepsi Independence Cup after defeating Pakistan in the final. Hosts India fell by the wayside, much to the chagrin of their supporters



Coming of age. SAURAV
GANGULY came good both with
the bat and the ball and almost
single-handedly won India the
Sahara Cup against traditional
rivals Pakistan and in the event
won himself the
man-of-the-series award

The past and the present. Celebrating India's fiftieth year of Independence, the BCCI awarded 16 former and the present captain mementos to mark the occasion, during the interval of the Independence Cup final All the captains, the eldest being Lale Amarnath and the youngest Sachin Tendulkar, were given a standing ovation by the supporters who had packed the stands at the Eden Gardens as they were taken around the ground in jeeps



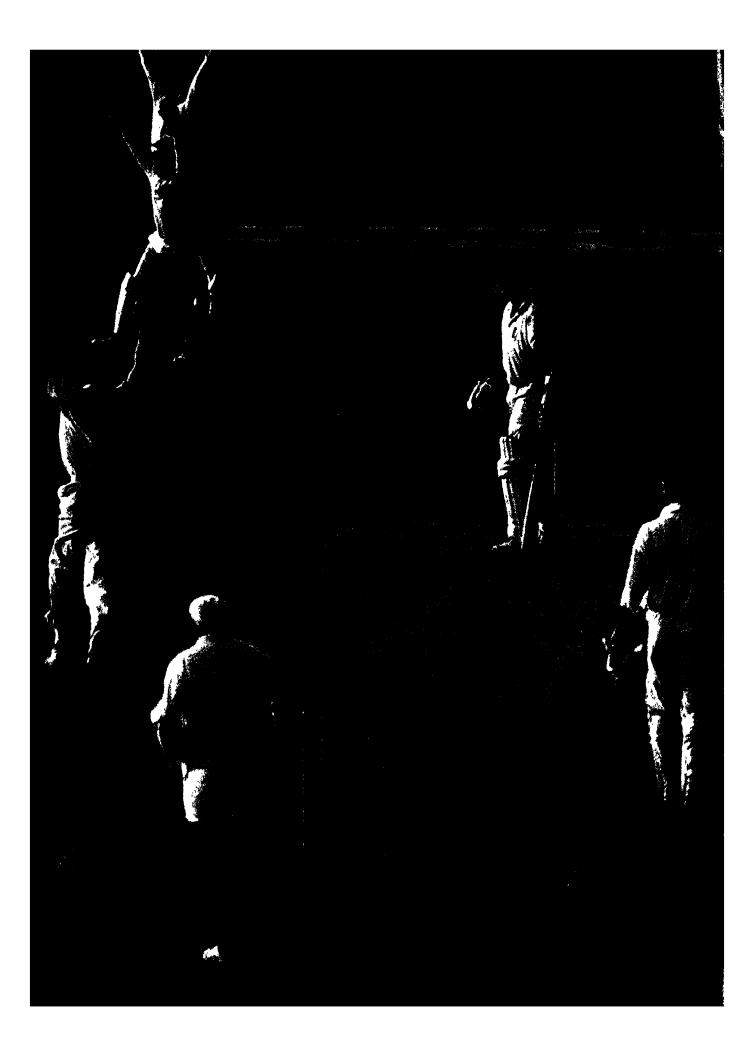


Winners at last, it was certainly a superlative showing by the Indians in Canada that saw them drub Pakistan 4-1. The Indian team suddenly found within themselves a sense of resolve and team spirit that they never knew existed. However, in the following series in Pakistan (India went there after eight years), the hosts defeated the visitors to clinch the Wills Independence Cup. Cricket unites...politics divide

The ugly face of cricket. Former coach MADAN LAL tries to pacify the crowds after an Indian supporter was assaulted by Inzamam-ul-Haq for repeatedly shouting abuses at the cricketer during the Sahara Cup in Toronto. Both parties were then formally charged by the authorities, but later both dropped cases against each other







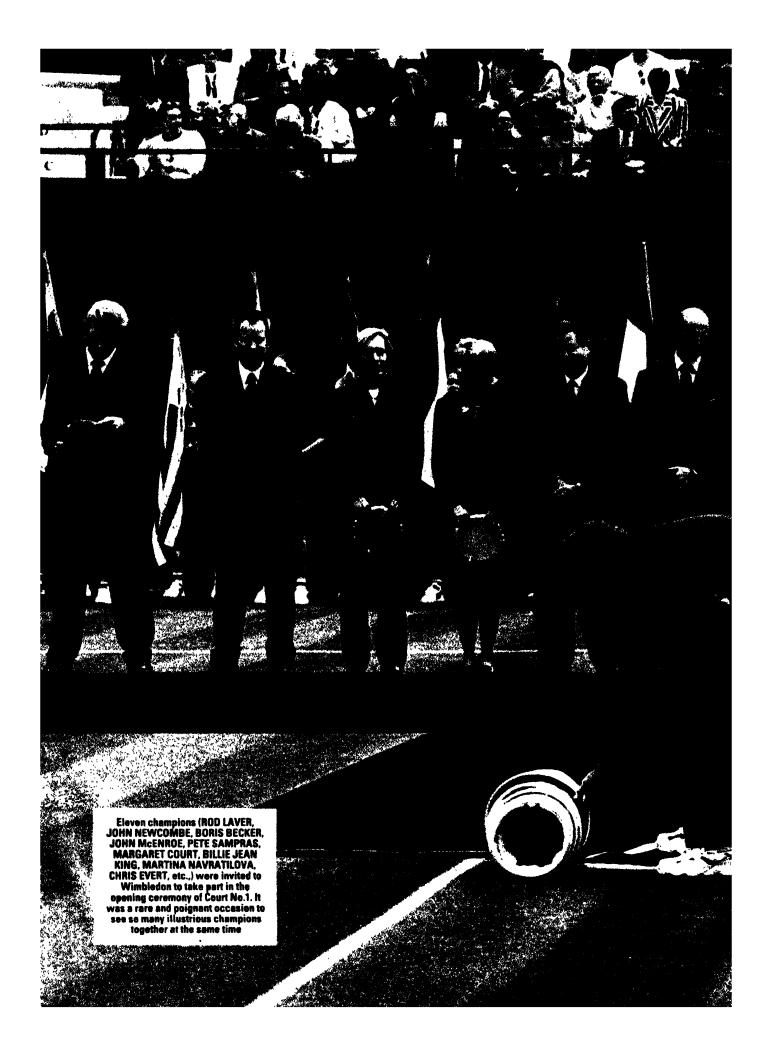
TOFEATURE

(Right) Playing defensive. MANOJ PRABHAKAR stirred a hornet's nest by claiming that he was offered Rs.25 lakhs by one of his ex-colleagues, throw away a match. Immediately, allegations of betting and match fixing raised its head and the BCCI hastily instituted a one-man commission under Justice Chandrachud. Prabhakar deposed before the Judge but refused to name the colleague. The cat-and-mouse game only served to tarnish the image of cricket and of cricketers in India

(Left and inset) DEVON
MALCOLM caught MARK
WAUGH bowled GLENN
Mc GRATH. This dismissal helped
Australia win the fifth Cornhill
Test, the series and more
importantly, they retained the
Ashes. Both ATHERTON and
TAYLOR were under a lot of
pressure before the series and
critics in both countries called
for their ouster. However, the
Ashes win saw Taylor keeping
his place, while support from the
management saw Atherton too
retaining his post



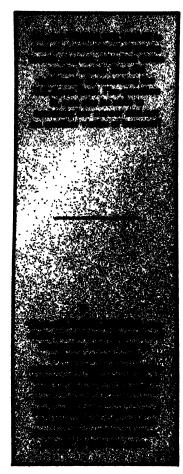






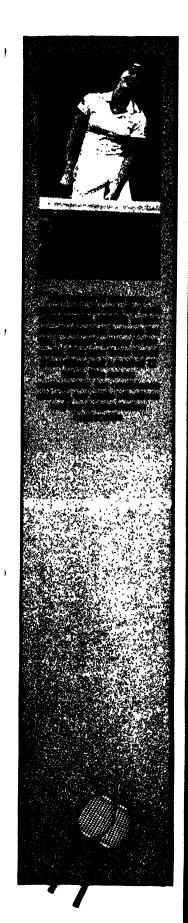


O T O F E A T U R E P H











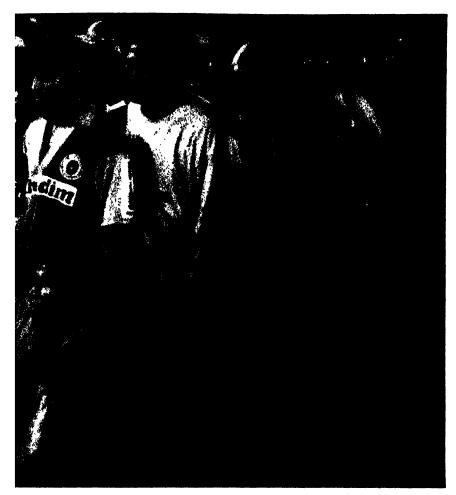
P H 0 T 0 F E T R E



ASHORT CHARRABIOHEY



Bruno Coutinho (10) with the SALGAOCAR flag doing a victory lap with teammates after defeating mighty EAST BENGAL in the final of the KBL Federation. Cup at the Salt Lake stadium. However, the Calcutta side took sweet revenge by eliminating the Goan team in the quarter finals of the Rovers Cup in Mumbai





(Top): India's first professional team KBL-F. C. KOCHIN holds aloft the Durand Cup after demolishing Calcutta giants MOHUN BAGAN 3-1 in their maiden appearance in the Delhi tournament

(Left): Without any major win, both club fans and officials alike were fuming over EAST BENGAL's inconsistency. The breakthrough came in the IFA Shield when Bijen Singh scored the golden goal against F. C. KOCHIN in the final. This victory was the local team's 25th Shield title



They were certainly humiliated in front of the Delhi crowds during the Durand Cup but a few days later MOHUN BAGAN came back with a vengeance to score over F. C. KOCHIN in the DCM final. For the premier Calcutta team, this was their maiden triumph after appearing in this tournament for several years

P H O T O F E A T U R E



TIGER WOODS became an instant worldwide superstar when at the age of 21, he became an instant youngest golfer to win a Grand Slam title, the Master's at Augusta. His game, after that epochal win, has sort of petered out. Has the pressure of too much fame and money derailed his brilliance? We hope not

(Right) GARRI KASPAROV, for the first time in many years, showed psychological vulnerability when he lost to Deep Blue, the computer. Is this the beginning of the end for mankind?

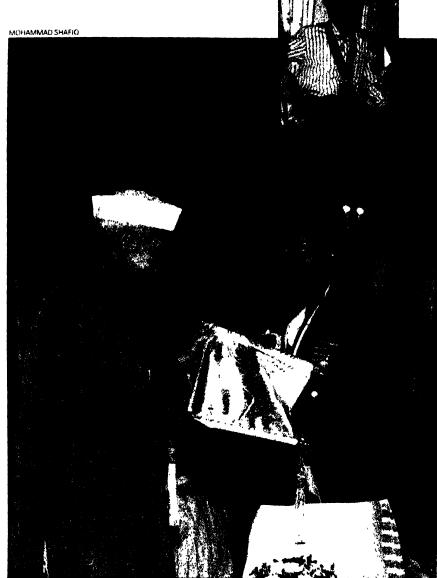


Picture shows a jubilant EUROPE after they defeated the USA by one point to win the Ryder Cup in Spain





(Above): MIKE TYSON pictured during his infamous 'ear-chewing' bout with Evander Holyfield. This is his contrite description: "Saturday night was the worst night of my career as a boxer and I ask the people who expected more from Mike Tyson to forgive me for snapping in the ring and doing something that I have never done before and will never do so again." Can we believe him?





(Above): KARNAM MALLESWARI is pictured receiving the Arjuna Award from former President S. D. Sharma. This year, she won the gold in the 59kg class in the Asian Weightlifting Championships. So far, she has won 25 international medals, while KUNJARANI (inset) who won a silver medal in the 46 kg class in the same Championship, has won 44 international medals. It is a pity that they have not yet received the recognition they deserve

(Left): The INDIAN JUNIOR hockey team-surprised everyone when they reached the final of the Junior World Cup. Can the hockey administrators take this opportunity to build the nucleus for a brilliant senior team?

36 MOHAMMAD SHAFI

R E O T O F E A T U H P



HOW unprepared Pete Sampras says he was for fame and fortune after he won the 1990 U.S.Open as a callow 9-year-old: "I was into a lake full of odiles."

AT Martina Hingis
ays is the worst thing
ter to happen to her: her
divorce when she
was our years old.

tar Tommy Haas, who coach Nick Bollettieri's loes before he goes to gives Bollettieri a odnight kiss.

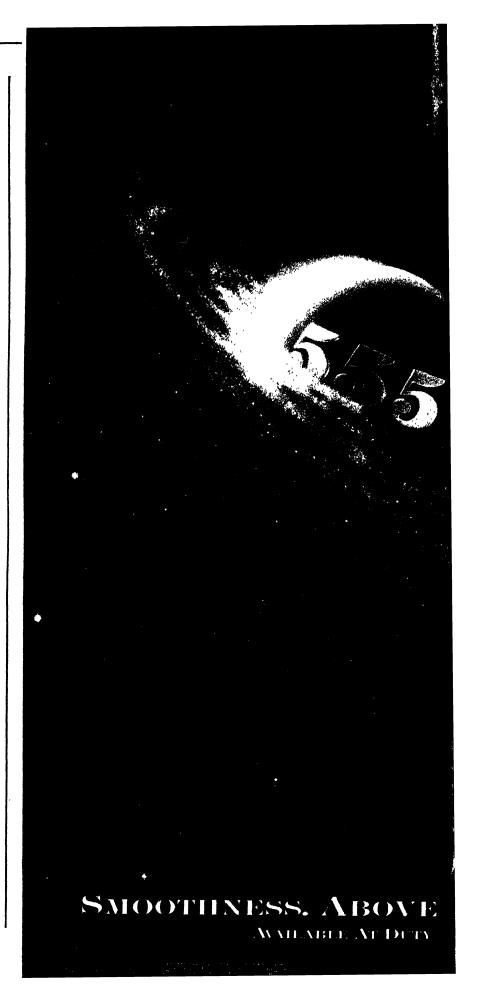
e-on-one interviews
with, 16-year-old Russian
prodicy Anna Kournikova:
ns about Detroit Red
hockey star Sergei
ed v, her 27-year-old
houriend, are not allowed.

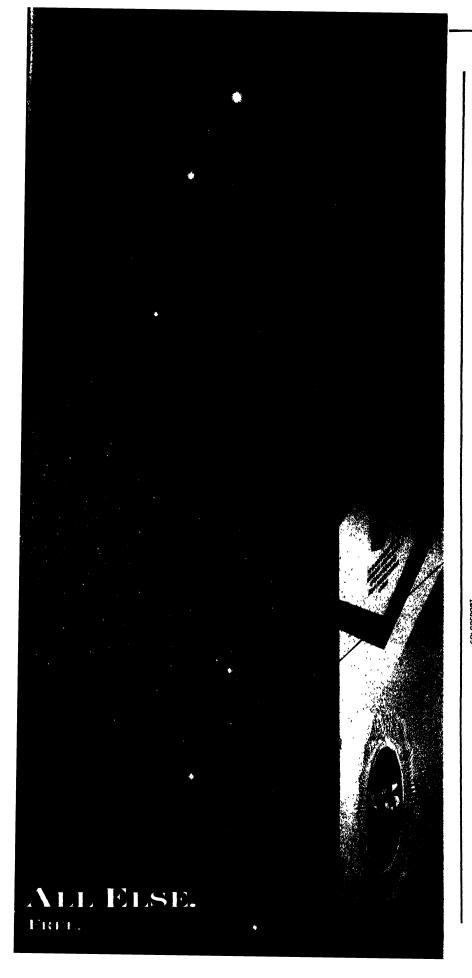
W Andre Agassi scribes his long and p slump: "This is as tough as I have ever been in with my tennis."

reason Japan's top
woman player, Ai
ma, is learning the
and rin language: as a
eccition, in case the
e take over the world.

TATHO John McEnroe pince dared to fight him at the French Open: a smiling cameraman who got too close to him.

AUSE that Steffi Graf wants to support after she retires from pro tennis: World Wildlife Fund for Nature.





WHAT 16-year-old Venus Williams told the media after upsetting top-tenner Iva Majoli in March: "I could have beaten her three years ago."

16-year-old Russian
Elena Dementieva had on her
shirt—instead of the one
permitted—when the umpire
at the French Open told her to
put on another shirt: 6.



MICHA to work hard, period."

How many more women's rest rooms the new USTA National Tennis Center—the site of the U.S.Open—has than the old one: 190.

Number of pro tournaments it took Monica Seles to gain a Top 10 world ranking: 8.

Compiled By Paul Fein



ANSIF CRONJE. Here's an ambassador who looks beyond cricket's boundaries. Soft spoken, deep-thinking, charming and modest, he is about as far from the old, stereotyped Afrikancer as it is possible to get,



and the South Africans are tremendously fortunate to have someone of his calibre leading them from the front at such a significant juncture in international cricket. On him lies the responsibility of a nation. And Cronje feels, "Players from the

HANSIE VAN OF CRONJE, with guts, determination and hard work has moulded South Africa into a top class fighting outfit

ST

INTERVIEW

(Left)As a captain Hansie Cronje is a master motivator and is always egging the South Africans on, even when the chips are down and (inset) the sweet rewards of success. Cronje receiving the Wills Quadrangular Trophy from the Pakistani President after winning the tournament

realises, cricket is playing a significant part, perhaps as significant as any other, in the re-alignment of his nation.

If this is not yet a multiracial South African team, it is a representative one and nobody should doubt that the players are extremely aware of their responsibilities. One of the six Afrikaneers in the side, Cronje believes the way they have been assimilated in the game will assist the future integration of talented blacks. In this interview he

WILLS
Win BORUS

PAY MARINE Chap on 15,900

generation before us would have given anything to play at this level of the game. For them it is an ambition unrealised. We know we're carrying the responsibility of an entire nation and it helps that people at home are so eager for us to do well." In fact, as Cronje



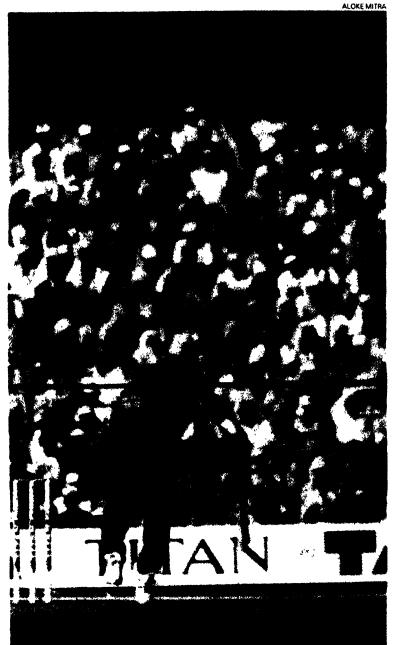
There's also a willingness among everybody to perform, to stay in the side in search for glory. So, survival purely depends upon the individual, true to the doctrines laid down by Charles Darwin

spoke of his plans for the development of South African cricket and how he visualises it beyond 2000 A.D. Here are the excerpts:

What is the secret behind the tremendous success of the South African team in the recent past?

If one looks at our team thoroughly, it'll give the picture of a wonderful blend of youth and experience. 'Talent' is the key word here, which is put to proper use through years of experience and grind for the seniors, and the juniors are ably assisted by them. Added to talent is the level of fitness, stamina, skill, concentration and power. For everybody in the team, the game is our livelihood, hence, professionalism comes ahead of all. And, once any job is done with a systematic approach, success is bound to come. That's the simple law of nature.

In spite of being such a formidable combination SA has looked to be woefully out of form on some important occasions. Why has it been so?



Maybe it might appear as such, but one cannot complain about the lack of commitment. One has also got to accept that it is a game where ups and downs are a part. Being a sportsman you have to accept victory and defeat on equal terms.

Has the team wilted under pressure at times?

Not really. But pressure is always there in such a job. People expect a lot of you and you can't simply desert them. But at times, we have also responded well to pressure, and come out with magnificent victories.

Anything for the team. Cronje adapts to situations as and when they arise. He's a good bat, an excellent fielder and occasionally chips in with the ball

It has mostly been seen that the South Africans are a very hungry pack—where does this hunger come from? Is it just the dedication to the cause of the nation, or something more?

Firstly, we had come out of years of isolation. Naturally, that enthusiasm was there, often over-enthusiasm. There also was a spirit of freedom and fire burning within every soul. We were desperate to get into the act, play together, win together. It was a hunger on the part of everybody, not only players, but also people around. And that 'hunger' has been displayed in our attitude towards the game even since we made our appearance on the international circuit.

Having been their skipper three years now you've worked tremendously on the strengths and weaknesses of the side. The outcome has been phenomenal. Do you feel that your team still has room for improvement?

In international cricket there's always room for improvement. The basics of the game may be the same, but a lot is changing everyday. The game is evolving, keeping in view several aspects—commercialism etc. A great deal of money is involved in the game today and there's a lot of expectations, too. As a result, one has to lift the level of performance, improve everyday.

How do you manage to keep your players mentally agile and physically fit despite the gruelling cricket schedule these days?

The manager and physio work it out with a scientific and systematic approach. One also needs self motivation to survive in this level of the game and the grind. There's also a willingness among everybody to perform, to stay in the side in search for glories. So, survival purely depends upon the individual and are true to the doctrines laid down by Charles Darwin.

What about the players who are nearing the end of their international career? —Does South Africa have any plans of preserving them till the 1999 World Cup?

Yeah, we do need the services of the likes of Allan Donald, and Brian McMillan. I believe, the Board is looking into this matter. I don't have to worry much for that. I just have to play my game properly and see that others are being helped when they need me the most.

GETTING BETTER DAY BY DAY

South Africa, after their emergence on the international scene in 1991, is all set to be the best side in world cricket

South Africa	in One-da	y Internationals: Year by Year
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Year	Matches played	Won	Lost	Abnd.	Success percentage
1991	3	1	2	-	33.33
1992	19	10	9	-	52.63
1993	17	6	9	2	40.00
1994	29	11	18	-	37.93
1995	7	5	2	-	71.42
1996	30	25	5	-	63.33
1997	19	14	4	1	77.77
	124	72	49	3	59.50

South Africa in Test cricket

	lon	Won	Lost	Drawn
1889-1970 (March)	172	38	77	57
1992 (April)-till Nov 97	40	16	9	15
	212	54	86	72

Compiled by HARIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAY

Tell us something about the young, vivacious crop.

As you said, they're indeed vivacious. Very, very talented —guys like Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Adam Bacher, Paul Adams and a host of them. They believe in themselves and are fighters to the core. What more can a captain ask?

What is the future of the Black cricketers in your country?

The way the Afrikaneers have taken to cricket has shown the way for the blacks. I've seen some of them and they are brilliant. They like to bowl as fast as they can and hit the ball really hard, much like the West Indians. But when they get picked they must be in the team on merit. There can be no token selection.

Is cricket free from politics in South Africa?

Oh yes. We are a sporting nation and wrap ourselves under the same flag—be it black or white. There's no scope for racism or even a

The way the Afrikaneers have taken to cricket has shown the way for the blacks. I've seen some of them and they are brilliant

whiff of it in cricket. They simply come on their merit. Cricket simply has nothing to do with politics.

Are you undertaking any special measures for the development of this game in Orange Free state?

It's really booming there. Once a sport of little or no consequence, during my childhood days, today, the province play to 18,000 crowds in a well-appointed new ground. Allan Donald, Kepler Wessels, and myself we are all working hard to give it a stand.

How has your combination with Bob Woolmer helped realise dreams for South African cricket?

We have been framing strategies together that has indeed been beneficial to the side. He's a good man and a good human being too. His thorough knowledge of the game has helped us in very many ways. His lap-top will tell you about each player—their strengths and weaknesses and then Bob will devise



The South African nucleus. Cronje with his main strike bowler Allan Donald (left) and master strategist Bob Woolmer. Together, they plot the fall of the opposition

programmes to work on the weak points. Surely that has helped elevate the level of the performance of our team.

For an Afrikaneer, you came to the game very early....

To me it was normal. My father was the president of the Orange Free State cricket union and I was always around the dressing rooms, where English was spoken. Some of the English professionals who came over also stayed with us. We were influenced by them and saw Lord's as the home of cricket. So, 'cricket', the game wasn't something alien to me, as it might have been for many other Afrikaneers like me

What really were the influences of Kepler Wessels on you?

In 1970 cricket was first brought to attention of the Afrikancers; in its wake came Wessels. He was 12 years my senior, preceded me at Bloemfontain's noted Grey College School and into both Orange Free State and national sides. Though I did not meet him until I played against him, the name Kepler Wessels was always around in school and the city. He was a ploneer in making the sport popular among Afrikancers. From being my inspiration, he became my mentor, a father-figure to me. A fiercely determined, very gutsy and shrewd captain—qualities every captain should have. I admire him a lot.

What really has been your best moment so far in international cricket?

My first Test hundred -1 35 against India in '93, in the

tinal Test. It took me 9 hours and that had set up the country's first win in the new era. It simply was a great teeling.

Disappointments?

Can't really single out any. There have been lots of them. It's an eternal truth that ups and downs are a part of life!

It seems that you look much more beyond cricket's boundary—Is that your personality or is it the demands of the job?

There's more to life than just cricket. One needs to be a complete human being with an eye for detail. There are so many things happening around you. One needs to be focussed on the game, while at the same time be inclined towards a larger view of life.

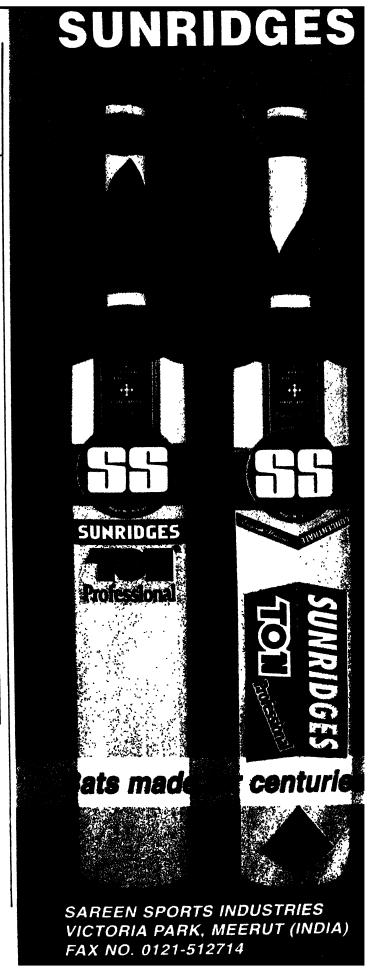
A car accident in September 1992 that left a pedestrian dead was the moment of epiphany that altered me as a person. I returned to the Dutch

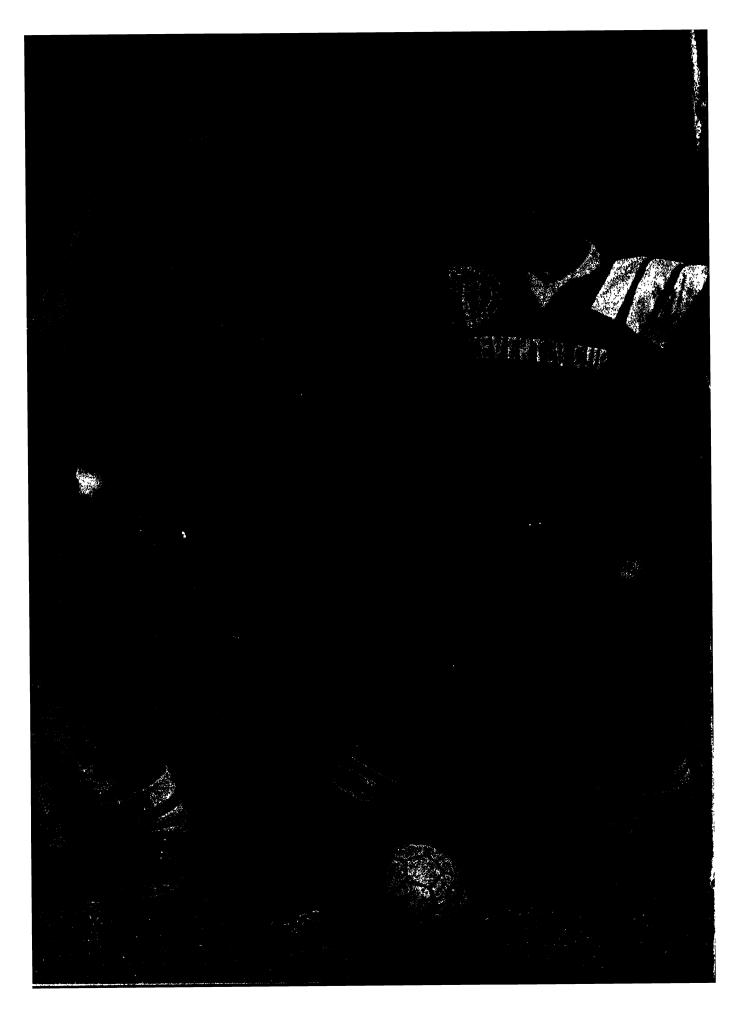


Cronje has realised that there is more to life than just cricket. For him contentment means being at peace with oneself and the world

Reformed Church in search of peace of mind and soul. I've always been a committed Christian ever since and pray that God helps every soul.

You've reformed South African cricket to a huge extent. Where do you plan to take it from here? I certainly would like to see South Africa as the foremost cricketing power of the world by the year 2000. We shall try our level best to achieve that and leave the rest to the Will of the Almighty.





BY CHINMOY ROY

T'S six o'clock in the evening.
Seated on a chair in the State
Bank of India's Middleton Row
branch in Calcutta, and
meticulously checking the vouchers
and signing papers, is a bespectacled
man. He is none other than Surajit
Sengupta, the former crafty winger of
the Seventies who mesmerised
opponent defenders with his dazzling
footwork and swerving crosses.

He has put on quite a bit of weight. He is wearing blue jeans and an off-white shirt with black stripes. The noise inside the office, even at this closing hour, is rather irritating. His colleagues are winding up for the day. Surajit, however, is a picture of

Usually he gets up at 6 a.m. in the morning. (The old habit is still there. Those days of hardship are fresh in his memory. He used to get up at 4 a.m. all the way from Bandel and travel to Calcutta (40kms) in the earlier part of his career.) After finishing a cup of tea with biscuits, he heads for the Rabindra Sarobar Stadium on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There, he plays practice matches with the Footballers' Welfare Association trainees (he is the secretary of the association). This organisation has donated money to the financially struggling ex-Olympians and other ex-footballers. They also run a football coaching camp at Rabindra Sarobar jointly with Avenue Sammilani Ciul.

"No, I don't play to stay fit," he replied when I asked him why he still played, "I still love the game, and

THE LIFE OF 3/A 1

national winger who was tball in the Seventies

concentration. It is clear that he likes to linish off the day's work. Spots of white in his beard and greying hair does give me the impression that age is fast catching up on him. But mentally, this man seems to be as youthful as ever. That's what I learn once he starts talking to me.

Surajit Sengupta is 46 years old. He owns a decent-looking flat in the wonderful ambience of Golf Green.

none but the enthusiastic youngsters lure me to the ground." When he is not playing, he is busy writing his column for the Bengali daily newspaper Aajkal.

After he returns from the stadium, he takes a heavy breakfast-cum-lunch at about 9-15 a.m. He leaves for office between 9-30 and 10 a.m. He drives to work in a Marutt 800. Surajit joined the State Bank of India in 1973 and now



Accompanying his son on the table, watched by family members

has been promoted to the post of Deputy Manager in 1991.

l asked him what exactly is his job profile.

"Our job is to deal with the Government account," he explains, "It's a very responsible job. There is a great satisfaction in paying the pensioners on time. But preferably, I would have been happy, had I been engaged with a job related to sports or culture. But I extract pleasure from any job. So there is not much regret, as lar as job satisfaction is concerned."

Sengupta has an afternoon meal around 2-30 p.m. After that, this workaholic is again busy with office work. At about 6.30 p.m., Surajit Sengupta leaves office. Now it's time for a refreshing round of adda with a select band of friends. The adda is done in the office itself or sometimes in the Volleyball Association tent on the maidan.

By 8.30 p.m. he returns to his Golf Green residence. After having a cup of tea, he sits and watches TV. He likes to see a good movie or a special sports programme or the *TVS Sa Re Ga Ma*. His wife Shyamali is there to give him company.

Surajit got married to Shyamali Chatterjee in 1976. "She stayed at Calcutta but used to come to Bandel

1978

(my home town) quite often. She is the sister of my school friend. It was in 1970 that we came to know each other. The relationship went on and we got married in 1976," remembers Surajit.

Shyamali Sengupta holds a

CAREER PROFILE

1969-70: Represented Bengal in the Junior National.
1973-79: Represented Bengal in the Santosh Trophy.

1972 : Donned India colours in the Asian Youth Soccer at Bangkok.

1974 : Represented India in the Teheran Asian Games.

1977 : Played in the King's Cup at Bangkok and President's Cup at

Seoul. Goodwill tour to Zambia.

Participated in the Bangkok Asiad.

1979 : Goodwill trip to UAE. Was offered to play for Abu Dhabi

Sports Club for six months.

1972-73: Donned Mohun Bagan colours. 1974-79: Donned East Bengal colours.

1990 : Played for Mohammedan Sporting.

1981-83: Played for Mohun Bagan.



Master's degree in Zoology, although after her marriage, she has always been a housewife. Their only son Snigdhadeb is a higher secondary student from Patha Bhaban High School. Like his illustrious father, he too is endowed with talent, but in a different field. Snigdhadeb is a talented singer and excels in Indian classical song

"Till the age of sixteen I used to play the tabla with elan," Surajit reveals, "Like me, he is in love with music since his childhood. He has already won a prize in a competition organised by Rajya Sangeet Academy. He has also been selected in the under-16 category of HMV's golden talent search scheme."

On some days, Surajit plays the tabla and assists Snigdhadeb during his riyaz. Dinner is taken at 11 p.m. By the time his day draws to a close, it's midnight.

I asked him his view on the present state of Indian football? How is it like in comparison to his glory days? Surajit ponders for a while and then says, "I won't say there is an appalling qualitative fall in the standard. The major difference is of values. Players of our time honoured their jersey and took great pride in representing the big clubs. The present generation takes it very casually. Apparently, there is a professional atmosphere but it is far from being properly implemented."

"With the advent of the national league, do you think our football is heading in the right direction?" I ask.

"It's difficult to answer. The national league has brought a change in the dominance of certain teams. Then again, there are too many flaws in its implementation. The foreigners are African rejects. They resort to power football which is contrary to our style. They are average in quality. So how can they promote the standard?" says a forthright Surajit.

"In your column, you have frequently come down heavily on the establishment. Do you think this kind

of attack is a solution. Wouldn't it have been better if there was some constructive criticism?"

For a moment, Surajit's face turns grim. But he shrugs and replies, "I write against the establishment because I want to raise a voice against corruption and malpractice. I also write against lootballers, coaches and even referees. I raise a voice whenever I see anything that pollutes the atmosphere of the game. Players of my time are now coaches and they indulge in match-fixing. The mess is so deep because everybody is only concerned about themselves."

"How come you have not become a coach?" I ask.

"I never thought about club coaching because of the bitter experience I had during my days as a footballer. I cherish a dream of building a residential coaching camp for budding footballers. Football, in the camp, will be treated as a subject. But I am content with life although a lot of things are yet to be fulfilled."

READERS' UIZ

QUESTIONS

Other than being two of England's best Test cricket venues, what is common to The Oval and Trent Bridge?

2 . which Indian cricketing legend once quipped, "I was born on January 6, I completed my first Test century by

the men's singles at Wimbledon?

5 What is common to: Maureen Connolly, Margaret Court, and Ken Rosewall?

On seeing whom on screen did a child remark, "But mummy, he doesn't look like a murderer."

According to FIFA rules what is the minimum number of players needed for a football match to continue?

Answer to Question No.10



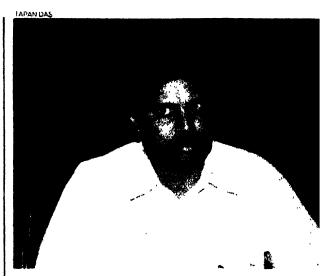
hitting a six, and I got married on a sixth. So I suppose six is a very lucky number for me."

British rulers Edward II, II, Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV and Queen Elizabeth I all banned one sport from being played. Which sport was it?

4 Which trophy is not get a single m the tournament.

My father played for East Africa in the maugural cricket World Cup in '75. But I had a better and longer career playing for England. My shoe size remain a difficult 12. Who am I?

Name the only player in the team that won-India the cricket World Cup in 1983 who did not get a single match in the tournament.



Answer to Question No.2

Which Hindi film
star once had a
tootball team in the Fitties

l C/a star once had a lootball team in the Fifties called the Bombay Dynamos?

What is common to the following footballers: Kevin Keegar Karl Heinz Rummenige, Franz Beckenbauer and Alfredo de Stefano?

ANSWERS

- 1. Both have been used as venues for international football matches.
- 2. Kapil Dev.
- 3. Football.
- 4. The George V Cup.
- 5. They were all natural left-handers who played their tennis right-handed.
- **6.** Harold Larwood, during the Bodyline series.
- 7. Seven.
- 8. Derek Pringle.
- 9. Sunil Valson.
- 10. Pran.
- 11. All won the European Footballer of the Year award twice.

THIS QUIZHAS BEEN COMPILED BY



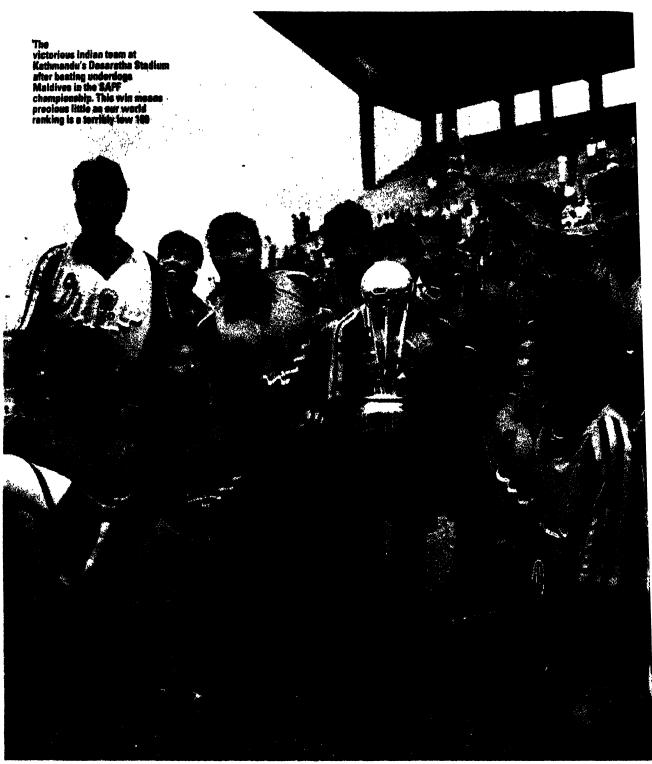
SHAWAN KUMAR SAHA, C/O — ALOKE SAHA, NEW TOWN, RABINDRANAGAR, COOCH BEHAR WEST BENGAL PIN — 736 101

All answers are sent in by the contributor.
Readers are requested to sent in at least 20 questions and answers accompanied by a passport size colour photograph with their quiz.

SKATING ON THIN ICE?



NOWHERE ON Th



EWORLD SCENE



from Asia.

ensured that about 450 million

THE question that arises is, how did a tiny island like Jamaica reach the World Cup and not India?

When you think of Jamaican sportspersons, you think of legendary athletes Merlene Ottey, Don Quarrie, the Rolls Royce of fast bowlers Michael Holding and the current Windies skipper Courtney Walsh. Now the Jamaican World Cup team has become extremely popular in the tiny island.

The monthly Coca-Cola world rankings list released by FIFA show exactly why Jamaica has reached the World-Cup. Jamaica is now 40th in the FIFA rankings list.

Jamaica's rapid rise in football rankings is quite mind-boggling and something India should try to emulate. In 1994, Jamaica was ranked 98th in FIFA's list. By March 1997, Jamaica achieved a sudden rise to 30. Now they have slumped partially but are still ranked 40th. A dynamic coach,

JAMAICA'S SUCCESS STORY

This tiny Caribbean island makes it to the World Cup finals

meticulous and visionary planning and co-ordinated work enabled Jamaica's progress.

In 1994 they appointed Rene Simoes, a Brazilian as coach. Simoes was selected not at random, as many of the East European coaches in India, since 1982, but with great thought. It was felt that a Brazilian coach aptly suited the playing styles of the Jamaican players who rely on talent and natural ability.

Their game plan consists of lots of possession, passing the ball around and quick bursts of speed.

Simoes says, "Proper marketing of the game and planning is going to lead to a boom in the Caribbean island." The Jamaican Football Association has set up a finance and marketing community in which successful members of Jamaica's business community are involved.

They have developed an ideal system called "Adopt a player". In this system, business houses adopt a player, pay his wages and in return can use the names of the players they support in their advertising. In this way, all thirty members of the Jamaican squad have a sponsor.

Till the 1998 World Cup, a pool of thirty players are under contract to the Jamaican Football Association. Jamaica is regularly arranging international matches for their national team, to ensure that the talented players can play as a cohesive team and their fitness level can be raised.

Indians have a reasonably comfortable life-style.

The much-heralded and lauded Indian middle class, the apple in the eye of the multinationals and the private sector, for their purchasing power is about 200-250 million. They have, at a conservative estimate, an income of Rs 5,000 per month or Rs. 60,000 or approximately \$ 2,000 per annum.

In fact, considering the upward mobility of the Indian middle class, the International Monetary Fund report of 1997 ranks India as a developing country, along with other World Cup qualifiers, Chile, South Africa and Mexico.

There are several qualifiers for France '98, like Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Paraguay, Jamaica and Mexico whose income level and purchasing power is not superior to the Indian middle class. The question that arises is, how did these nations like Jamaica (see box) reach the

World Cup and not India?

India, at present, is ranked 109 in the FIFA World Rankings. For years. India has been hovering in the 100-120 range. Like Leander Paes in the singles, the Indian football team, struggles to break the 100 barrier. India has just two international class players in Bhaichung Bhutia and I. M. Vijayan but little else.

National coach Syed Nayeemuddin cries himself hoarse for foreign exposure, training and matches in Germany or Holland and other Asian nations. However the AIFF has done little to oblige their national coach. Now with the Philips National League slated to start from mid-December, it is unlikely that any foreign tour will be arranged. So the Indian team will not get international practice till about April 1998. The Asian Games is scheduled for December 1998.

Four decades ago, Japan was languishing in the unofficial ranking list of FIFA (official list started in 1993)









in the 100-110 range. Realising the need to improve, Japan started their J-League (professional league) in May

The League started as a proposal for raising the standard of the national team. Football administrators, feeling that Japanese football was going nowhere, wanted to provide a proper youth coaching structure and career opportunities for young players. So the J-League has not just popularised the game in their country but raised standards because of meticulous and visionary planning.

The same, unfortunately, cannot be said of the National League started by the AIFF in 1997. Except for East Bengal, the clubs in our National League pay lip service to youth development programmes. We are aiming for a professional league but our approach is still amateur.

Indian football is still in a state of transition. The top clubs, like a travelling circus, move from one

tournament to another. George Blues, the Scottish coach of F. C. Kochin, is aghast that top clubs play three matches per week and rarely practise. Non-stop tournament practice is hardly the way to develop football talent. Excessive matches are especially disastrous for players like Amit Das and Basudeb Mondal who weigh less than 55 kgs, and are under 5ft 5ins.

Except for the Tata Football Academy and, to a certain extent, the Williamson Magor Academy and the East Bengal junior side started only in 1997, players in India emerge due to individual effort and a little bit of luck. I. M. Vijayan and Jo Paul Ancheri are not products of any organised system. Considering so many drawbacks, we should not expect India to qualify for the most demanding sports event of them all: the World Cup. Indian football needs both perestroika and glasnost but sadly we do not nave a Gorbachev in charge.

CARRYING ON

27 batsmen on 35 different occasions in Test cricket history have carried their bat through a completed innings

URING the Faisalabad Test in October this year, the touring South African team's opener Gary Kirsten made a magnificent 100*, to enable his team to reach a reasonable total of 239. By scoring an unbeaten century, Kirsten has also achieved the distinction of carrying his bat through a completed innings of a Test match.

Given below are some fascinating facts:

1. The feat or carrying the bat through the completed innings in Test history so Tar has been achieved by 27

BY KEKI DARABSHAH DQODHWALA

2. Bill Woodfull; Len Hutton; Glenn Turner and Bill Lawry have done it twice, while West Indian Desmond Haynes holds the world record of carrying his bat through on three separate occasions. In fact, during the Dunedin Test in 1979-80 against New Zealand, opener Haynes was the last man out in both the innings.

individual through on three e occasions. In fact, during the n Test in 1979-80 against New l, opener Haynes was the last t in both the innings.

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ALOKE MITRA

6. Pakista



Gary Kirsten of South Africa recently carried his bat through an innings of a Test match against Pakistan. He was the fifth South African to do this

different batsmen on 35 occasions. It includes 10 Australians; eight Englishmen, five West Indians; five South Africans, two New Zealanders; two Pakistanis and one each from India, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

3. Plum Warner (Test No.58) and Jack Barett (Test No.33) were the only two players to perform this feat on debut. In fact, during the Lord's Test in 1890, Australia's regular opener J.J. Lyons was replaced by J.E. Barrett in

the second innings and surprisingly, Barrett fought back gallantly to carry his bat by scoring 67 not out.

4. Glenn Turner of New Zealand had achieved this feat on two separate occasions and created two different world records. In 1969, he had created a record by being the youngest at the age of 22 years and 69 days. While in 1971-72, he slammed the highest individual score while carrying his bat through. (223*).

5. Graham Gooch of England holds the world record for contributing the highest percentage of a side's total amongst the players carrying their bat through a Test innings.

6. Pakistan's Nazar Mohammad and Mudassar Nazar provided the only instance of a lather and son carrying their bat through a complete innings.

7. A.B. Tancred of South Africa was the first-ever batsman to achieve this feat in Test history, way back in 1888-89.

8. W. Bardsley carried his bat through Australia's first innings at Lord's in 1926 at the age of 42 years and 201 days and remains the oldest to score a hundred in the Ashes series.

9. Australia's Bill Brown; England's Len Hutton (1950) and New Zealand's Glenn Turner (1971-72) are the only three batsmen to score double centuries while carrying the bat.

10. Geoff Boycott of England is the only batsman in Test history to remain not out on 99 while carrying his bat. Apart from Boycott, Michael Atherton is the only one in this list to become a victim of the nervous nineties.

11. Sidath Wettimuny of Sri Lanka has achieved this feat in 1982-83 while opening the innings with his brother M. Wettimuny.

BATTING THROUGH

Setimen .	Seere	Total	% of Tutal	Steel M.S.	Yester	Vacco	Section :
AUSTRALIA							
Jack Barrett	67	176	38.06	33	Eng	Lord's	1890
Warwick Armstrong	159	309	51.45	44	SA	Johannesburg	1902-03
Warren Bardsley	193	383	50.39	39	Eng	Lord's	1926
Bill Woodfull	30	66*	45.45	15	Eng	Brisbane	1928-29
Bill Woodfull	73	193	37.82	66	Eng	Adelaide	1932-33
Bill Brown	206	422	48.81	56	Eng	Lord's	1938
Bill Lawry	49	107	45.79	15	ind	Delhi	1969-70
Bill Lawry	60	116	51.72	30	Eng	Sydney	1970-71
Ian Redpath	159	346	45.95	47	NZ	Auckland	1973-74
David Boon	58	103	56.31	15	NZ NZ	Auckland	1985-86
LANG BOOM	76	103	70.71	1.7	11Z		
ENGLAND			Commence of the second				and the second
Bobby Abel	132	307	42.99	28	Air	Sydney	1691-92.
Plum Warner	132	237	55.69	21 9		Johannesburg	3898-99
Len Hutton	202	344	78,72	44	W 71	The Oval	3846-99 1950
Len Hutton	156	272	57.35	29	ALE	Adelaide	1950-51
Geoff Boycott	99	215	46.04	23	Aus	Perth	1979-50
Graham Gooch	154	252	61.11	27	W 1	Leeds	1993
Alec Stewart	69	175	39-42	19	Pak	Lord's	1992
Mike Atherton	96	228	42.10	. 31	302	Christehurch	1996-97
WEST INDIES							
	101		51.34	45	-	N	
Frank Worrell	191	372	51-34	47	Eng	Nottingham	1957
Conrad Hunte	60	131	45.80	26	Aus	Port-of-Spain	1964-65
Desmond Haynes	88	211	41.70	32	Pak	Karachi	1986-87
Desmond Haynes	75	176	42.61	30	Eng	Oval	1991
Desmond Haynes	143	382	37.43	96	Pak	Port-of-Spain	1992-93
SOUTH AFRICA				(17)			
Louis Tancred	26	47	35.31	7	Eng	Capetown	1986-89
Billy Zulch	43	103.	41.74		Eng	Capetown	1909-10
Trever Goddard	56	99	56.56	18	Aus	Capetown	1957-35
Jackie McGlew	127	292	43,49	63	NZ:	Durben	1961-62
Gary Kirsten	100	239	41.84	81	Pek	Feisalsbad	1996-97
- Cury Minutes							
PAKISTAN			2 M 4 c				
Nazar Mohammad	124	331	37.46	41	Ind	Lucknow	1952-53
Mudassar Nazar	152	323	47 05	85	Ind	Lahore	1982-83
NEW ZEALAND		4		4.3		****	
Glenn Turner	. 43	131	32.82	23	Eng	Lord's	1969
Glenn Turner	223	386	57.77	78	WI	Kingston	1971-72
INDIA							a sire and a
INDIA Sunil Gaylaskar	127	286	44.40	78	Pak	Faisalabad	1982-83
Julin Odynskai	•			***		**************************************	
SRILANKA		474,184	44 ==	747 M	A	militaria a la companya di managana a la companya di managana a la companya di managana di managana di managan	
Sideth Wettimuny	63	144	43.75	34	MZ	Christchurch	1982-43
ZIMBABWE							
Mark Dekker	68	187	36.36	75	Pak	Rawalpindi	1993-94
	an \.		VILLY				
Aff figures are up to Oct. 19	マフ ののおど			:			

12. Bill Woodfull (1932-33), Bill Lawry (1969-70 & 1970-71), Graham Gooch, Michael Atherton, Jackie McGlew and Sunil Gavaskar are the only six players to achieve the distinction of carrying the bat through a complete Test innings while leading their respective countries.

13. Zimbabwe's Mark Dekkar is the only batsman in the list who was not

the top scorer for his team while carrying his bat.

14. India's Sunil Gavaskar and Pakistan's Mudassar Nazar have achieved this feat in the same series in 1982-83 on Pakistani soil. This record was equalled during the England-West Indies series in 1991 by England's Graham Gooch and West Indian Desmond Haynes.

15. During the Lord's Test of 1992 against Pakistan, English opener Alec Stewart scored 69*, with the second highest score being 28 as extras. (Though the second highest score from an Englishman was 15).

16. Out of the 35 instances of carrying the bat through a completed innings, only 16 batsmen have crossed the 100 run mark. ●

UNCUT DIAMOND

Fifteen-year-old NISHA MILLET, winner of 10 gold medals at the Senior Aquatics Championships, is one of the country's brightest prospects



BY AISHWARYA LAKSHMI

HE 52nd Senior National Aquatic Championships witnessed in bright colours the domination of a 15-year-old Madras-born Bangalore school girl by the name of Nisha Millet. She won 10 gold medals at the Water Works swimming pool in Thiruvananthapuram. Last year, she had collared a record 11 individual golds in the 1996 Nationals at Indore; she also won nine individual golds in the National Games at Bangalore in June this year.

Changing her base from Madras to Bangalore purely for the sake of swimming has made this tenth standard student of Sophia's School one of the country's brightest prospects. But how soon she peaks remains to be seen as it's not easy to do well at the Asian level. China and Japan, two of the continent's superpowers in this sport, also happen to be world-beaters.

Her father Aubrey Millet said,
"Nisha is likely to peak only in 2000 or
2002. She will be at her best for the
next World Championships."

Nisha's trainer Nihar Ameen, who is the head coach of the K.C.Reddy Swim Centre (named after the first Chief Minister of Mysore) in Bangalore, has high regards for her. "She's extremely talented, probably the best, among those we have right now," he said.

"What's so special about Nisha?" I asked.

"She's very committed and very much focussed," he explained, "She

Nisha Millet with her ten (seven individual and three relay) gold medal haul from the Senior Nationals held at Thiruvananthapuram recently always wants to be a winner. A lot of people just come for practice, but the difference with Nisha is that she wants to be the best. Nisha has the potential to make it to the Asian Games, even though she's still quite young."

Nisha took to swimming "totally by accident", if her father's words are to be believed. Explained Aubrey Millet, general manager (marketing) with 'AMCO Batteries Limited' in Madras: "I moved jobs from Guwahati to Madras, took a flat there and found that there was a swimming pool next door. My wife Sheila and myself became members. It was just a recreation for us, this weekend swimming. While we were there, there was a learn-to-swim programme by the Sports Authority of India. We put Nisha there and at the end of two weeks, she had learnt only to float. She was then nine years, which is older than most swimmers who take to this sport. Most of them start around five or six."

"Midway through the programme," he continued, "Nisha wanted to quit because on the fourth and fifth days they took the young ones to the deep end and asked them to jump from the diving board. Nisha did not want to do it. But my wife convinced her that she should do it as 'papa has paid money for it'. Then she went back, finished the programme and learnt how to float.

"There were two coaches who were training groups of children in that pool. Nisha went and asked one of them to coach her but was refused on the grounds that his training was restricted only to state swimmers. For the next two weeks, she kept trying to swim under that coach's nose hoping that he would look at her, but he didn't. But finaily, the coach who had earlier said, 'no place for Nisha,' asked her to come and swim and within two weeks, she had beaten all the swimmers there. That's when we realised she had some potential."

Six months after learning to swim, Nisha took part in her first meet in Bangalore—the South Zone championships in early 1992, where she bagged a silver and three bronze





Nisha Millet with her coach Nihar Ameen

medals. The same year, she returned, from the Water Works Swimming Pool at Thiruvananthapuram, in her first Age-group Nationals, with a backstroke bronze. In the 1993 Bangalore Sub-junior Nationals, she emerged the individual champion, rewriting national records in the 50 and 100m freestyle events.

Her first overseas trip, to Hong Kong for the Asia-Pacific Championship, fetched Nisha a bronze in the 100m freestyle, besides two relay silvers. The year 1994 was a good one for her, when as a sub-junior, she became the individual champion in the Senior

Nationals at Goa, surprising everyone including herself. Then, at the age of 11 years and 10 months, she became the youngest-ever gold medal winner in any discipline at the Pune National Games.

Later, when she had problems with her club in Madras because she was not being trained properly, the Millets moved their talented daughter to Bangalore, just to give a boost to her swimming talent. Nisha stayed with the Reddys (Pratap and Anita) who run the K.C.R. Swim Centre for eight months.

"Though Nisha was born in Madras, she could not adjust to the conditions

ON A SMOOTH TRACK

RAILWAYS dominated the diving competition

HE Railways team dominated the diving competition at the Thiruvananthapuram Senior National Aquatics championships. Their women diver, 18-year-old Ishani Ghosh, a clerk with the South Eastern Railway in Calcutta and studying in 11th standard at Jaipuria

springboard and a silver in the one-metre springboard happened to be the only points for her team also.

In the men's competition, the 28-year-old senior clerk with the Eastern Railway in Calcutta, Taraknath Hait halted a clean sweep by the Lucknow-based head clerk of North-Eastern Railway,



The triumphent Religraph team: (from full): Helt, Dighe, Ishetti, ceach Sherme and Unest Presed

College in Shyambazar, single-handedly won the women's title for the Railways. The 19 points she collected from the two golds in platform and three-metre

Umesh Prasad. The latter, in fact, had created history by winning golds in the highboard and three-metre springboard events—a feat emulated in the Indian

there. In fact, it was just an experiment when we put her under the Reddy's care. But after eight months she refused to return," said Sheila Millet.

Asked to comment on Nisha, Anita Reddy said: "More than her swimming which she does fabulously, as a person, she's very friendly and considerate. She never makes a fuss about anything and she was like a big

sister to my children. I would have done this sort of help for anyone. Nisha's talent in swimming also impressed us very much "

Early this year, Nisha had a three-month sprint training at American Olympian Garry Hall-owned Phoenix Swim Club in Phoenix, Arizona. The Karnataka government helped with airfare plus some expenses in this exposure trip

diving scene after a gap of 37 years. (In 1960, Services diver Bajrangi Prasad had won both the springboard and highboard golds.)

In the newly-introduced one-metre springboard competition, Taraknath Hait clinched 42.90 points on his 11th dive, perforning a forward 1-1/2 somersault with one twist, which separated the gold and the silver by two points. Taraknath collected 421 points while Umesh Prasad's third gold bid was stalled as he ended up with 419.05 points.

In the other two events, Umesh Prasad had done his best—a forward 2-1/2 somersault and a invert 2-1/2 somersault diving from the three-metre springboard; in the highboard competition, he did a forward 3-1/2 somersault and an armstand double somersault, for the gold. Another Railway diver, 18-year-old Bhausaheb P. Dighe of Western Railway contributed to Railways' team success with a silver in the highboard.

The Railway team coach, Ashok Sharma, a travelling ticket inspector at New Delhi, felt that the Indian juniors are doing well. "The Indian diving standard is improving day by day. Viraj Patil, who excelled in the Bangalore National Games, did not take part here (Thiruvananthapuram), but he is of Asian standard. He does the dives which the Japanese and Chinese perform," said the 49-year-old Sharma, "But the Calcutta divers are good in highoard diving," he added. Aishwarya Lakshmi

for her. Though Nisha did not time her best in any of the freestyle and backstroke events, she took part in the Arizona senior state meet. Apart from the exposure, she has developed a positive attitude from this sojourn.

I am sure with this newly-learnt positive attitude, she will go a long way in her quest for glory.

PHOTOGRAPHS AISHWARYA LAKSHMI

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

TITLE: MY YEARS WITH BILLOO SETHI THE GOLFING LEGEND AUTHOR: PREM SETHI PUBLISHER: PREM SETHI PAGES: 150 PRICE: Rs.495 DISTRIBUTOR:INDIA BOOK HOUSE AND VARIOUS GOLF CLUBS OF INDIA

HEN you think of Indian golf, you think of Jeev Milkha Singh, Gaurav Ghei and Ali Sher, megabucks on the Asian Circuit and a jet-setting lifestyle. However, in the none too distant past, golf had a much lower profile in India. It was only due to the painstaking efforts of some pioneers that the game survived in India and has now grown into a major sport. One such golfing legend was Prem Gopal Sethi, popularly known as Billoo Sethi.

His achievements were quite mind-boggling. He was the only Indian amateur golfer to have won the Indian Open Golf Championship at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club in 1965 and the only player to represent the country in every Eisenhower Cup (the biennial World amateur team championship from its inception in 1958 till 1980). In India, the maintenance of records is sluggish and so the only source of information is either newspaper cuttings or biographies.

Befittingly, sixteen years after Billoo's death, his official biography written by his wife Prem was released by cricket legend Bishen Singh Bedi. The book was released on Nov.26, to coincide with the late Billoo's birthday. The book is a collection of memories and anecdotes, carefully compiled and deftly presented. The author, Mrs Prem Sethi, an Urdu poet of repute said, "The book emerged from diaries on various events in Billoo's life and from memories which do not fade and interesting anecdotes." It took her just 25 days to complete the book.



Author Prem Sethi at the release of the biography of her husband

Established publishers refused to consider this biography, as they felt that golf has very little readership in India. Piqued at this attitude, Prem Sethi published the book on her own. To curtail costs, limited black and white photographs have been used. Overall, the book has six chapters, including excerpts from newspaper reports, which deal with various important events in Billoo's life. As the biography is based on memory

and anecdotes, it may appear disjointed. However, the subtle thread of continuity is maintained by revealing Billoo as a shy but warm hearted human being and talented golfer.

Born in 1929, Billoo's first love was cricket. He represented the Services with distinction in the Ranji Trophy as an all-rounder. He was irked when not selected to play against a visiting MCC team in 1955 after excelling for the Services. The late Duleepsinghji had recommended his name. Billoo would have excelled in the one day cricket game for he was a hard-hitter. He once scored 68 runs off just 17 balls for Services in the Ranji Trophy and opened their bowling. After this setback, on the advice of his father, he quit cricket and took to golf seriously.

This is not a book about golf, but about Billoo and the golf scene in India, when the game was totally amateur. Mrs Prem Sethi recalls many happy incidents with her late husband during their frequent tours. She traces his career when he joined the Indian Army in 1949 and rose to the rank of a Major before obtaining release from the Services in 1962. He subsequently worked in the Dunlop group.

She also tells us how proud Billoo was when he became the first Indian golfer to win the coveted Arjuna Award and his campaign to get golf included in the 9th Asian Games at Delhi in 1982. Sadly he could not see his dream fulfilled as he died of a heart attack on 21st June 1981.

An interesting book and a bold venture by a talented widow to recall the exploits of her famous husband, who was also known as 'The Gentle Colossus'. The book admirably conveys the amateur ethos of Indian golf and the much gentler pace of life in middle class India in the 1950s and 1960s with great poignancy and subtlety. The highlight is an eye-witness account of the epic match between Raj Kumar Pitamber and Billoo Sethi in the Sri Lankan Open in 1964, in which both drank till the early hours of the morning but then played the match of their lives.

Novy Kapadia

VINTAGE FARE

It was nostalgia time as one watched pre-1968 cars take on the challenge in the strenuous Peking-Paris rally

BY GEORGE FRANCIS

HE Nepal-India border suddenly resembled the earlier part of the 19th century as a 1907 La France Hooper pulled up alongside the road. The dusty road from Nepal skirted by a canal, from the Mahakali dam, reminded one of the days of the Raj. A row of Bentleys, Buicks, a Rolls Royce Phantom 1 boat-tail roadster, Chryslers, Land Rovers and Peuguots

were rolling down this dusty road to India.

The event was the Peking-Paris Motor Challenge. Ninety cars out of the 94 that had originally started off, belonging to the pre-1968 age chugged into India, completing 6,000 kms of rugged roads, most of them nestled in the 13,000 metres to 17,000 metres altitude. "I hope the 'goat roads' are over," one of the rallyists was heard commenting after their strenuous drive from China and Nepal.

Armed with cell phones and no

radio equipment, these adventurers were engaged in the rally-of-their lifetime. There were fathers partnering sons, husbands with wives, girlfriends with boyfriends and they all come from varied walks of life. Even royals were present to give the rally the much needed glamour. The Duke of Somerset, Lord Montague of Beanlieu, Idrish Shah, the Crown Prince of Malaysia, the Rt. Hon Sir

A 1965 Rolls Royce Silvercloud S3 negotiates a curve enroute from Nainital



Local girls cheer a 1935 Bentley as it goes past them. The drivers must surely have enjoyed the support, the blue skies and the beautiful landscape

David Steel, MP, and Baron Willem Bentick van Schoonheten of The Netherlands

What pricked one's curiosity was the courage and cheer these rallyists showed in doing this strenuous and often dangerous rally. To go into the history of this event is interesting and the comparative details make it all the more worthwhile.

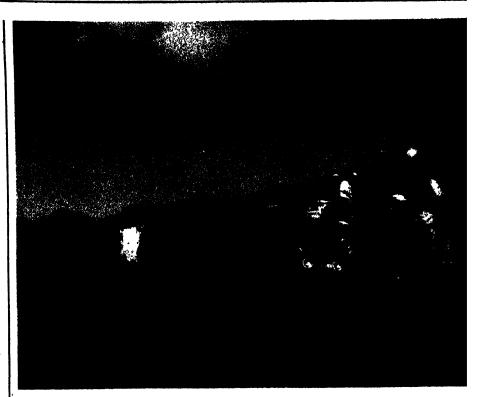
The original Peking-Paris rally was held in 1907 and followed a similar route and went through Tomsk, Omsk, and Moscow, with no maps or good motorable roads for the first 8,000 kms. Running for two months between June 10 and August 10, Prince Scipione Borghese won this pioneer event with the second car still two weeks away. Only five cars started, and four of them finished at Paris.

The 1997 event, run exactly after 90 years, had 94 entrants, with cell phones, and computers with E-mail facility. The route charted was close to the original, but for the Russian Federation roads, which are too good now for any rallying challenge.

Covering 16,200 kms and passing through 11 countries that takes 43 days to finish, it offered the drivers a wide glimpse of Asia and Europe.

The mammoth event became possible thanks to Phillip Young, (founder of the Classic Rally Association of Blewbury, Oxon) who decided to re-run this challenge four years back. A past competitor in the 1977 London-Sydney Marathon, Paris-Dakar, and the Great Himalayan Rally, Phillip was the founder of the Historic Rally Car Register and was instrumental in launching the historic rallying in Europe.

After talking and negotiating with various governments and bureaucrats, Phillip pulled the rally through, while Mike Summerfield set the route. Summerfield, who runs an outfit Rally Masters back in the United Kingdom, personally surveyed the route from Kathmandu to Paris before finalising this route.

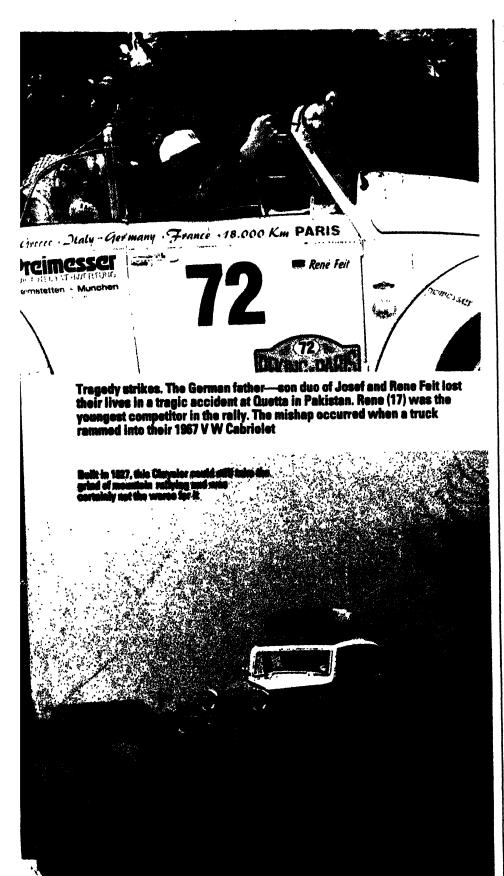




That the participants were pleased by the enormous amount of work that went into organising the rally was evident when one got talking to them. "It is so nice to do this rally. We are overawed by the hospitality and the cheering crowds along the entire

Mountain mists envelop the roads as a 1960 Velkswagon Cabriolet makes its way downhill

route. This is the best way to see a country. We had our children to rear all these years, but now we are free to take this long holiday," said Sheila



Morris, who was co-driving a 1956 Austin with her husband David Morris. A wallpaper manufacturer from Wales, David's Austin has run only 28,000 miles since 1956 and was in a museum before the previous owner started competing in classic events. It was clearly evident that the couple was pleasantly treating the rally as a working holiday.

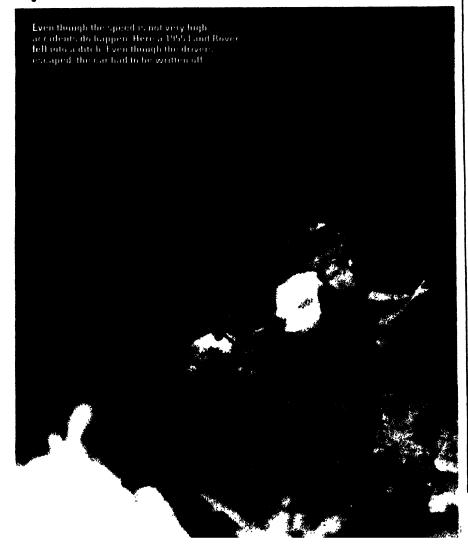
The oldest of the rallyists was 73-year-old Raymond from the USA with co-driver Mike Wyka, who drove a 1939 Ford convertible. Raymond who is already in the Guinness Book Of World Records, was the only person in the world to have driven across the Americas in a 1902 Northern Petrol, a 1912 Baker Electric, and a 1909 Stanley steamer car. Raymond who was doing this event against his doctor's advise said, "Positive thinking is uppermost in my mind for this rally. Just think everything is fine and if there is a problem get over it. Do not worry, if your car failed today, someone else's will pull out tomorrow." The ever-cheerful Raymond is full of laughter and that is what saw him through the grind of the long rally.

Ted Thomas and Vic Zannis were another team from America. When asked as to why they were in the rally they replied while going through immigration formalities at the Indo-Nepal border, "It is a challenge to do an event like this in our 1950 Ford Club coupe. The only sad thing is that my driver Ted had been sick all through the journey, until now." Thomas who is the president of the Southern Aviation underwriters based in Birmingham. Alabama, had raced the NASCAR, IMSA and the SCCA from the mid-50's while co-driver Zannis was a motor mechanic.

That it was a very gruelling and painstaking journey through the rough roads of China, Tibet and Nepal was evident on the tired faces and body language of the rallyists. Werner Graf of Denmark, working in the Saudi Arabia communications business, co-driven by Klans Koppel from Germany in a 1963 Triumph TR6



Over to Pakistan. The rallyists after a gruelling leg in India cross over to Pakistan from the Wagha border



said, "The friendship bridge between Nepal and Tibet was the most unfriendly bit for our Triumph. We are waiting for better roads now."

The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India toiled like slaves to complete the formalities so that the rally could get on with its Indian leg. The journey to Nainital was enjoyable, except for a Land Rover, driven by Nigel Challis from England, went off the road and ended in a 20-feet ditch. However, both the crew members had a narrow shave but regrettably the car had to be written off.

The rally then wound through Moradabad and reached Delhi where the rallyists were met by the British High Commissioner. From there, at was the ride through Punjab that took them to the Wagha border with Pakistan.

The Indian leg was finally over. Most of the rallyists praised India and her hospitality but cursed the truck drivers. The hoot of their pre-historic horns meant precious little to the Punjabi truck drivers who seemed to be ignorant about rallying. One of the rallyists remarked, "India was too short. We should come back for a holiday here."

The gates at the India-Pak frontier at Wagha would traditionally close at 16-30 hours, and every soul was scurrying to get their papers cleared. While the BSF jawans saluted and bid farewell to these pre-1968 machines and the whole lot of 'mad motorists' (as Allan Andrews titled a book about the 1907 event).

The rallyists and their prized machines, moved from India into Pakistan, to travel through Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Germany, to reach the final destination of Paris. While the Pakistani and the Indian security forces 'beat the retreat' a' sundown, with people on both sides of the border it was a very poignant moment and one got the impression that an event like the Peking-Paris Motor challenge could well bridge thworld.

Now, what was that something about a.. global village?
PHOTOGRAPHS GEORGE FRANCIS/SCORP at WS

freewheeling

ERY soon after his retirement, a famous sportsman is faced with two options. Either he fades away or he fights and maintains his high profile. In a hierarchy-prone and status-conscious nation like India, there are tremendous advantages in being famous: corporate doors open; aeroplane and train tickets are easy to get; you are courted by the rich and the powerful; you get good seats at cultural events; you are treated with kid gloves by the Income Tax department and so on and so forth. There is a general fawning about, that a loss of fame can make traumatic.

The best way for a retired sportsman to remain famous in India is by becoming a media professional, in either the print medium or T.V.

T.V., of course, is the most high profile medium that exists today.
People are constantly made aware of

OSOGRACI RUHTRA MOITARTPULLI

your presence and, if not your actual physical presence all the time, then, at least, your voice. Where normally, younger generations would not have known who you are, and how you look like, except if they read sports history books, now effortlessly, they recognise you on the streets.

That's why, even though Sunil Gavaskar's exploits took place quite a few years ago, youngsters still rush to get autographs from him. (In contrast, nobody rushes to get autographs from Prasanna or Chandrasekhar or Salim Durrani or Eknath Solkar.)

But it's not easy to be a T.V. professional. For one, you need good communication skills, especially in the English language. Secondly, you have to learn to express your personality. Not everybody can do that. Most Indian sportspersons rarely go past high school. Hence, they do not have the confidence that education imparts.....

Another way to remain famous is to be in contact with journalists. They could do write-ups on you and thus remind the public of your existence. But how many times can the journalists do that, without losing their own credibility?

The third possibility is for former players to become administrators or coaches. But except for cricket and, maybe, football, most of these jobs are rarely focussed upon by the media.

Or they could inaugurate high profile events or be the chief guest at functions. (The photograph of the former sportsman is usually published in the next day's newspaper.) But your value as a 'famous person' begins to go down rapidly as soon as you retire. As the years go by, and as you become less famous, people call on you less and less, till, one day, the invitations stop altogether. Obscurity is now permanent.

Some of the famous sportspersons of their time who have now become unknown are: Mewalal, T.C.
Yohannan, Geeta Zutshi, Angel Mary Joseph, Keshav Dutt, Sudhir Naik, Padmini Thomas, Ulganathan, Sudhir Karmakar, Sadanand Vishwanath, Chand Ram. etc.

In obscurity, most of these retired sportspersons lead dull, humdrum lives. After the excitement and intensity of a full-blown sporting career, it comes as shock to wake up in the morning and not experience the tingle of anticipation that competition brings.

Because competition is like a drug. Once you experience the highs, the lows, the constant mental and

physical pressure, the adulation from the public and the sheer sense of fulfilment that a win brings, it is very difficult to live without it in your life.

In despair, most former sportsmen turn to drink. Their personalities begin to decay: they become bitter and cynical and are prone to dabbling in petty politicking in their state's sports associations.

But there have been solutions to this problem of emptiness. In international tennis, the Senior Tour has been established. That has saved a lot of former top class players from falling into utter frustration. Since there is competition and an intense one at that, because most of the players are ex-champions, life becomes purposeful once again. As Bjorn Borg stated frankly, "The best thing that happened to me is the Over-35 Senior Tour."

The moot point is that youngsters who are deeply concentrating on their sporting careers should be keenly aware that it is a very short one, a maximum of ten years or so. (Example: Boris Becker has almost fully retired at the tender age of 29).

It is imperative to develop alternative skills in order to make the remainder of their life (maybe four decades or more) meaningful and exciting. For this to happen, the onus is on parents who should insist that their children complete their education, at the same time as they are concentrating on their sporting careers and on chasing the moolah.

Chasing the moolah in sports is a legitimate aim. But moolah without enlightenment through education leads inevitably to moral and, sometimes, financial bankruptcy.

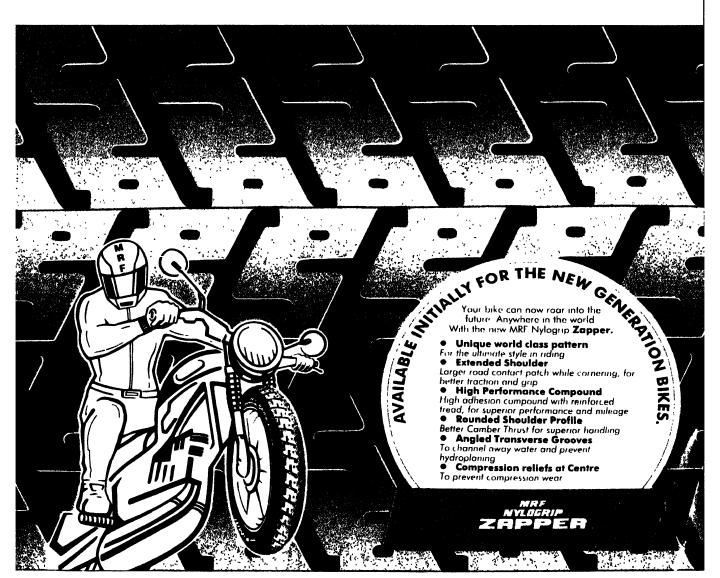
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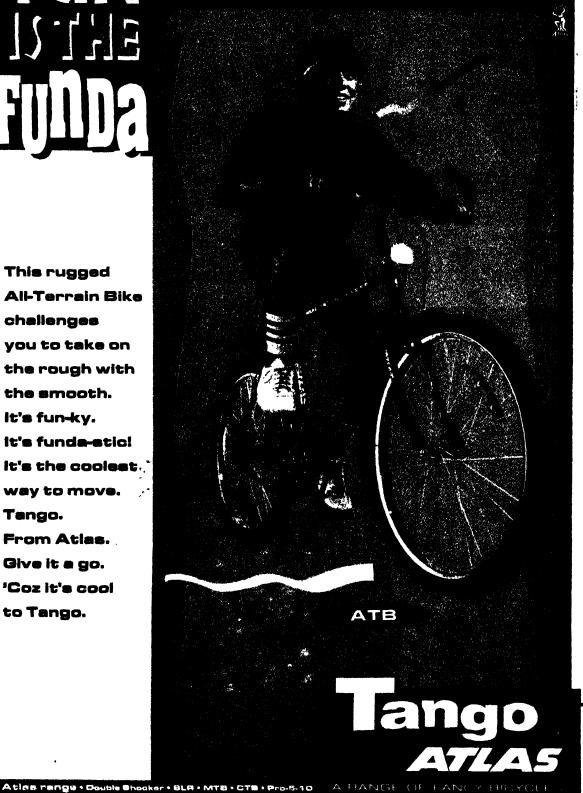
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